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COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

STATION
WORK
NO

I hate when they give me junk bonds.

TextPert Arabic 3.7

The first Arabic omnifont character reader in the world

CTA, DEVELOPER of TextPert optical character recognition (OCR) software has announced the release of TextPert Arabic 3.7, a totally new omnifont character reader for the Macintosh. TextPert Arabic is available as a stand alone application and as a high speed solution for the entire line of Macintosh II's and Quadras and is supported on more than 30 scanner models, including the new Apple One Scanner and Hewlett Packard Scan Jet IIc and IIp.

Targeted at the Middle Eastern desktop forms processing and printing industry markets, TextPert Arabic 3.7 for Macintosh is the unique answer to Arabic optical character recognition for desktop use. TextPert Arabic is the perfect solution for painstaking manual data entry from newspapers, books and typewritten documents in the printing industry.

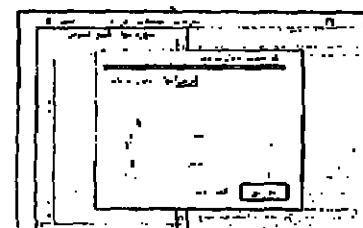
Used in combination with a spell checker, TextPert Arabic allows the fast input of typewritten originals and other text sources into a computer for eventual editing at a speed of more than 10 times that of a standard operator. TextPert Arabic can also be used to process typewritten forms effortlessly and accurately. With its ability to create very accurate descriptions with numeric and alphabetic fields, TextPert is considered to be one of the preferred forms of processing OCR software solutions on the market.

Compatible with the Apple Arabic Systems 6 and 7, TextPert Arabic is an omnifont solution that recognizes several Arabic script style and fonts including the Persian and Urdu alphabets from 10 to 72 points. Big point sizes will be recognized with accuracy slightly lower than 99 percent, though. In addition, the program is fully equipped to support 32 Indo European language alphabets in the same document. Although in different text blocks, TextPert Arabic supports most non-stylized typeset or typewritten typofaces.

It only needs 1Mb to run and incorporates a group of features. In the Automatic mode of Page Analysis feature, TextPert analyzes the entire page and locates

text blocks and images, creating a layout of areas to be recognized. In the manual mode, the user selects the areas he/she wants to read.

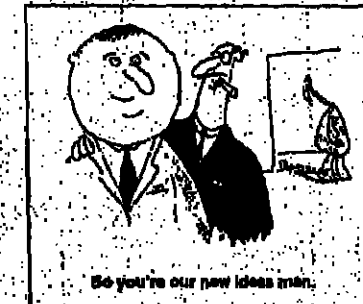
Layout Control areas can be recognized, recorded, erased, added, or edited by the user. Optionally, users may select special character



separators between areas for easy database or spreadsheet output. Layout may be saved and retrieved to fit particular job needs. Similarly with the area control, characters and languages may be determined by the user for each field or reading area. Areas may be alphabetic, numeric or custom meeting any specific subset.

A series of stored images may be processed in batches by selecting the Multiple Pages option. When a sheet feeder for a certain scanner model is available, the multiple pages option scans images until a blank page is found. Output text may be saved in a separate document for each page or appended to a single output file.

TextPert Arabic 3.7 for Macintosh is also available on the TextPert high speed board option



which is a high performance RISC co-processor board for the Macintosh II family and Quadras. The TextPert high speed board is based on an advanced Micro Devices 29000 CPU which gives up to 25 MIPS of processing power with the TextPert high speed board. The TextPert Arabic OCR engine recognizes text at a rate of up to 10000 characters per minute.

The TextPert high speed board comes with 1Mb of high speed instruction memory and 4 Mb of high speed data memory and runs at 25 MHz. The TextPert high speed board has been designed to be used in conjunction with CTA's TextPert local server application which is a background application that runs under System 7 and performs OCR requests via Apple events.

Compaq announces first portable 486 PC

THE FIRST portable computer in its class offering a white and black matrix display with standard VGA resolution was unveiled by Compaq recently.

The Compaq portable 486 PC is its new high-end portable which responds to a need for creating desktop functionality, high performance and ease of use on the move. It has 4Mb RAM internally expandable to 32Mb and includes a hard disk drive capable of storing 120Mb. The computer runs at a respectable speed of 33 MHz and includes a CD-ROM interface and a communications interface among other things.

The new system provides exceptionally crisp screen images and more than twice the performance of most 386 based notebook computers which need to take power hungry PC applications on the road and whose users require the readability and familiarity of a PC monitor. It owes this to the Thin Film Transistor (TFT) active matrix black and white display technology added to the Compaq portable line, giving the customer images with high contrast, sharp resolution and an excellent viewing angle very similar to that of a desktop monitor.

This product is part of a whole



new bunch of products released by Compaq, including the Prolinea, DeskPro I and Compaq which are all competitively priced. It is expected that several other companies will follow suit and produce similar TFT matrix screens. In the meantime Compaq can enjoy being the only company to use such technology on a 486 portable PC.

INTERFACE
BY THEE MAGNET

DIY

THE DO-It-Yourself concept in the world of computing is very popular amongst most users, especially when it helps cut down on the cost of having to actually buy whatever it is the computer user has to spend sleepless nights putting together. But the big question is whether the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) computer actually exists.

Back in the dark ages of computer technology, before what we know today as "the personal computer revolution", many geniuses were sitting in their garages armed with a drill and some scattered materials attempting to put together a DIY computer. Today, some computer magazines include sections explaining how to build a professional personal computer and there are video tapes available on the American market including step-by-step instructions.

Still not convinced? Well, let's look at it like this. Today's PCs are basically made up of many ready-for-use parts available at any hardware supplier. The only difference is that they would be mass produced on a production line at a steady rate. Besides, if it was so easy to put a PC together wouldn't there be hundreds, if not thousands, of different companies all over the world doing it?

The first Apple computer was built in a garage during the Seventies and the first mainframe computer was put together bit by bit like a jigsaw puzzle during the Forties, so it is perfectly acceptable to suggest that a computer user with a heap of computer trash in the Nineties can create a useable machine!

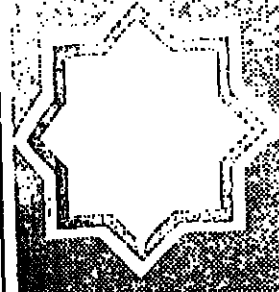
Even here in Jordan, some companies offer the user the choice of requesting which pieces to put together to make up a full blown PC reaching maximum configuration.

What is a PC basically made up of? I must admit I don't know about every nail and every switch, but to put it simply, you can safely say that it should include a microprocessor from Intel or any other chip supplier, a bunch of standard boards including certain important microchips and components necessary for your machine to see the light and some ROM chips including an operating system from Microsoft or IBM and voila! I know that many people out there are going to be at my throat for putting it like that, but it's quite true.

This brings up an important point on why, then, do we insist on buying the best hardware straight from IBM or another prestigious PC producer like Compaq? Surely people exaggerate in the bad things they say about Taiwanese PCs. Yes, and the latest figures on the computer market prove it. If you can get top PC performance for around 25 per cent less, then it's an option definitely worth considering. Well, so think hundreds of thousands of happy computer users all over the world.

In the last 12 months alone, the selling price of PCs has fallen by 25 to 45 per cent! Even in Jordan, the specifications of machines on offer for under JD 1,200 is very impressive and it looks like the right time to buy a PC or start putting one together since the price of parts is also lower than usual. I don't know about you, but I'd prefer that the prices of computers continue to go down and that those big corporate computer manufacturers get the message. Still, it could be interesting to show your friends your latest IBM/Acer/Tatung/Gateway 3 million zxy with a 486 Intel processor, Compaq monitor and a diskdrive from God knows who.

The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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Le Jourdain

Supplément au français du Star

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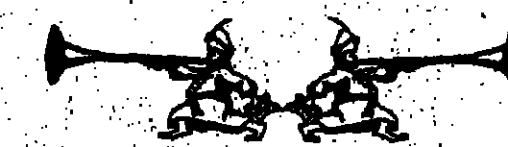


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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

The Rifai case laid to rest

Two weeks after the Lower House of Parliament began debating an indictment motion against former prime minister Mr Zaid Rifai and two former cabinet ministers for alleged misuse of public funds, the House rejected Monday to indict Mr Rifai and former minister of finance Mr Hana Odeh in an historic vote. But it voted for restoring former public works minister Mr Mahmoud Hawamdeh for trial.

The cases were presented by the House's Investigations Committee and were first debated in a stormy session last week (See The Star 30 July). But as predicted by The Star, deputies seeking to incriminate Mr Rifai failed to obtain the necessary two-third majority vote. The score in Monday's session was 48 votes only for an indictment.

Mr Rifai, who avoided public comment on the charges against him until the results of Monday's session, sent an open letter to newspapers, which was published on Wednesday, saying that there was never grounds for a case against him and that the unfair campaign against him was also



Rifai: Unfair campaign

targeting Jordan as a whole.

Mr Rifai added that the three-year defamation campaign against him, his father, former prime minister Sameer Rifai, and his family, was meant to undermine Jordan's pan Arab role, championed by His Majesty King Hussein.

He launched an attack against those behind the allegations against him and praised the fairness of Jordan's justice system, which turned down accusations of gold reserves misappropriation and others.

Mr Rifai said there were no grounds behind the so-called

Jafr-Azraq Highway corruption case since the decision to award an Indian company the contract was dictated by considerations of the trade imbalance between Jordan and India and the insurance of potash and phosphates exports to India. He added that such considerations were observed by successive governments.

Observers believe Monday's "acquittal" of Mr Rifai ended a five-year political siege of the veteran prime minister, which started the day he stepped down as premier in April 1988 following bloody riots in Ma'an sparked by Rifai government policies. They said that Mr Rifai can now prepare himself to play a new role in post-democracy Jordan now that he endured the toughest test of democratic traditions.

General elections were held in 1989 and candidates appealed to voters on a platform of uprooting official corruption and bringing public officials to justice. Since then Mr Rifai's government was associated with allegations of public mismanagement and misuse of state funds.

Mr Hawamdeh's case will now be reviewed by a special nine-member higher council chaired by the Upper House speaker.

Political affiliations and bloc

distribution within the House were evident during the last two sessions. The anti-Rifai tide was led by 22-member Muslim Brotherhood and the nine-member Democratic bloc with the support of independent deputies.

Official sources denied that the government tried to influence deputies' voting pattern during Monday's session.

The cases against former government officials attracted considerable attention both locally and abroad. In Jordan, the case against Mr Rifai raised a number of issues inside the House and in the street. Some deputies claimed the campaign against Mr Rifai was no more than an attempt to settle old scores with a man who was one of the strongest prime ministers in Jordan's modern history. Others said the cases focused attention on the duty of the House to check government function and make sure that public money is spent wisely.

Speakers of the Lower House Dr Abdul Latif Arabiyat described Monday's outcome as historic and honorable.

Parties Law up in the air

The future of the much-celebrated parties law now hangs by a thread and may be overruled if a joint session of parliament fails to back it overwhelmingly. The tug-of-war between the two houses of parliament over the political parties draft law has delayed the passage of the law at a time when political parties in the Kingdom eagerly await the day when they can officially meet and prepare themselves to contest the next general elections.

The Upper House returned the

draft law to the Lower House two weeks ago after amending an article in the law which prohibits political activities in schools. The Upper House rejected the amendments and sent the draft back to the Upper House for approval.

Joint meetings between the legal committees of both chambers of Parliament failed to reconcile the differences and the Upper House insisted that the amendments be kept.

To end the stalemate the two houses will now be called for a joint session to vote on the draft law. For the law to pass it requires a two-thirds majority in this session. If it fails to receive this endorsement that law will be rejected in accordance with article 92 and will not be reviewed by Parliament until the next session.

Allied navies are at it again

US Navy sources have denied press reports that Allied vessels at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba have changed their inspection routine of commercial ships sailing into Aqaba port. But Jordanian shipping sources said western warships have intensified their inspection operations last week.

They reported that in less than four days 10 ships were delayed for more than three days by Allied navies. They added that navy captains are not always satisfied with official documentation on cargoes.

Shipping agents say delays will cost the Jordanian economy an estimated \$30 million annually. One Jordanian shipper said Jordan is being used as a pressure tool against Saddam Hussein.

Project sets the seeds of a better cereal crop

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

THE SEEDS of better cereal production for Jordan have been set in the Jordan-German Seed Multiplication Project which was handed over to its Jordanian partners last week.

The 10-year project has received over DM 9 million in support from the German government and specialists from the German Technical Aid Agency (GTZ) have worked closely with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), the Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Jordan Faculty of Agriculture to establish a complete and sustainable system to produce top grade wheat, barley, chick pea and lentil seeds for Jordan's farmers.

Jordan's efforts to improve its basic seed quality go back as far as the 1950s when the post-1948 growth in its population made it clear that cereal harvests needed to expand, but the Seed Multiplication Project marked the beginning of really systematic effort.

The project has now far exceeded its original target of producing 25 per cent of the country's cereal seed requirements. In 1981 the total was 38 per cent and after the good rainfall of last winter, this season's tally of certified seed should be over 40 per cent of current needs.

The production of certified seed is a long term process and requires great attention to quality all the way but, as German Ambassador to Jordan Dr Heinrich Reimers noted at the handing over ceremony for the project "when a farmer buys his seed he is in fact buying his future crop

in embryo form, ever seed contains the 'blue print' for every character of the plant it will produce." First grade seed can as much as double a farmer's yield, boosting his income and saving currency now used on imported cereals — Jordan is currently growing no more than about twenty per cent of its cereal needs — so attention to detail brings clear rewards.

Traditionally farmers have just kept back a portion of the crop to use for seed the following season but that is not necessarily the best seed available and different types and species of cereal, maybe wheat and barley, often get mixed together. Under the Seed Multiplication Project activity has been divided between three Jordanian institutions, each with a special role to play in the production of first grade seed.

The first stage begins with the Ministry for Agriculture which is responsible for maintenance breeding. The process begins with the planting in lines of 2000 individual ears from each variety. An automatic seeder is used to ensure precision planting. During the growing season rows that are not pure are removed. At the end of the year 2000 ears are again selected for planting in the following season.

The remaining seeds are handed over to the Jordan Cooperative Organization which contracts farmers to plant, them under regular supervision and in accordance with good growth practice which involves shallow ploughing, early sowing and the use of fertilizer and weedicides.

When the farmers' crops are

harvested they are taken to the JCO centres in Irbid and Madaba for cleaning, treatment against seed and soil fungus, bagging and storing. The farmer who produces the seed for the JCO is guaranteed a good price for his crop while the farmer who later buys the seed is guaranteed a quality seed with high yield possibilities.

It is estimated that farmers should need to buy the certified seed only every four years as yields will remain high for three seasons.

The practical work being carried out in the field by the Ministry of Agriculture and the JCO is supported by the work of the Seed Technology Unit of the Jordan University's Faculty of Agriculture which is now training students in all aspects of seed

technology and has already conducted five regional training courses in various aspects of seed technology for over 140 participants 14 countries in the region.

Encouraged by the success of the Seed Multiplication Project, the Jordanian government has now asked the German government for support for a vegetable/potato seed production project which seems likely to go ahead by the end of 1992.



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Educational reforms

Better learning in better schools

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

JORDAN'S SCHOOLS are ready to receive 100,000 newcomers for the 1992-93 academic year, according to Ministry of Education estimates.

A further unspecified number of pupils who either dropped from Jordan's private schools or are children of recent Jordanian returnees will also join government-run schools throughout the

Kingdom, said Dr Izzat Jaradat, Director General for Planning Research and Development at the Ministry of Education.

About three hundred new teachers have been appointed by the ministry to meet additional requirements for the next school year, bringing the total number of teachers in the kingdom to 50,440, educating more than 1,170,000 pupils.

In order to acquaint teaching staff with the ministry's new cur-

ricula reforms, teachers serving grades two, six and 10 are undergoing training sessions in which they will be familiarized with new school textbooks. Bearing in mind the fact that the same training program was also carried out last year for grades one, five and nine, it is expected that by next year all teachers will be adjusted to the new reforms.

"These textbooks, which have recently been introduced into the schools, put a lot of emphasis on



School reforms are more than just new buildings

critical and creative thinking and problem solving, substituting conservative methods of summing up facts and reciting lec-

tures," Dr Jaradat told *The Star*.

The textbooks, however, are not the only change in the old educational program. New equipment, laboratories and computers will be complementing classroom work and teachers will conduct exams and tests according to the latest educational standards.

A further aspect of the reforms comprises replacing rented school buildings with specially constructed buildings. This summer a considerable number of new schools should be handed over to the ministry's directorates, and it is hoped that the process will be completed by the year 2000.

"Rented school buildings have imposed a two-shift schedule on the pupils, which is causing a great deal of inconvenience," said Dr Jaradat, adding that in order to implement new educational reforms school buildings should be large enough (one square meter per child), with suitable space for extracurricular activities, laboratories and workshops.

"The Ministry of Education will also be introducing new educational trends this year, which will be implemented through specific subjects. Various aspects of population, environmental, health and technological education will be presented to pupils in such a way as to assist their understanding of life and to improve their quality of living.

These reforms were established by the National Commission of the first National Conference on Education, which was organized by the Ministry of Education and was patronized by His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan in 1989.

The new 1989-99 educational program will have an estimated price tag of \$950 million (\$245 million dollars have already been spent during the first four years of the program), and is designed to offer better learning in better schools.

"By offering better educational standards providing children aged six to 16 with at least the minimum academic skills and vocational capability, we will achieve our aim," said Dr Jaradat. "Better learning in better schools will be the main instrument in achieving this golden goal."

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By Jeffrey Lee
Special to The Star

THE DESTRUCTION wrought on Bosnia-Herzegovina and its historic capital, Sarajevo, the town of Mostar and other important sites defies description — either because of its massive scale or because inspection still remains a risky business for impartial observers.

Only a few months ago, Sarajevo presented altogether different vistas. The city, its architectural presence and its people, excited and inspired visitors and sent them home overwhelmed by the experience. I was no exception as I visited the capital and its environs and devoured the historic charm of Bosnia as thousands of travellers had done before me.

Until its systematic destruction in the civil war, Sarajevo was where one was tempted to ask oneself the perennial question: Where does the Orient begin? For centuries, the Ottoman Empire meant that it began in the Balkans, but in Serbia, the traces of 400 years of Muslim rule have been all but obliterated. In the Serbian capital, Belgrade, only a single mosque remains to remind one of the area's Ottoman past.

It is in Bosnia that Islam left its most lasting imprint, which until recently was visible in all its glory. For a start, much of the population remained Muslim descendants of Ottoman Turks who intermarried with the native population in the 15th century. They make up almost half of Bosnia's four million people, much of it currently in diaspora because of the war. Before the Serbian intervention, Bosnians seemed to have won an ideal — religious and political freedom in the midst of Yugoslavia's disintegration.

"Mosques, minarets and fountains — holding the gorgeous East in its own hand," wrote Lawrence Durrell of Sarajevo. Indeed Bosnia, won for *Der Al Islam* by the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in the 15th century, became thoroughly permeated by Muslim culture and customs.

All Bosnians, for instance, whether Orthodox Serb, Catholic Croat or Muslim, still remove their shoes before entering their houses. Turkish food, coffee and music are ubiquitous. Since the communist collapse of 1988 the mosques had been filling up, green Islamic banners had been openly unfurled, and even the *hijab*, banned under Marxism, had become an ever more visible contribution to an Islamic atmosphere.

The religious renaissance had brought with it a revival in the awareness of Bosnia's Islamic artistic heritage. The distinctly Islamic discipline of calligraphy was flourishing once again, new mosques were being built and old ones refurbished and redecorated. These included Sarajevo's chief mosque named after Ghazi Husref Bey, Bosnia's energetic 16th century Ottoman governor. Built in 1590, possibly by a pupil of the great Turkish architect Sinan, the mosque had been called "the most exquisite in the Balkans."

Beside the mosque was the slender Sahatkuća clock tower with its rare Arabic clock face, which along with 78 other minaretted mosques, made up the city's thoroughly eastern skyline. Apart from the Islamic buildings, there are the bustling bazaars of the Bascharija quarter, where the art and craft of the East thrived, and numerous other architectural reminders of Bosnia's place on the border between Orient and Occident. Sarajevo also had two museums that were repositories of

eastern art and its local expressions, the National Museum of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Town Museum. Both have seen damage in the war and their fate is unclear.

In a large classical-style building beside Bosnia's parliament, the National Museum included a well-organized wing devoted to Bosnian ethnography. This revealed how eastern influences pervaded the area through the centuries of Turkish suzerainty.

On the other side of the city, the Town Museum was situated in a graceful building of the Austro-Hungarian occupation. Built in 1887 in the Moorish style, like much of the period's finest architecture, its graceful, arched courtyard was itself interesting. The collection it housed was evidence of the town's rich Islamic past.

Inside the museum, the display cases were unevenly lit and inadequately labelled, but with a guide (a single English translation was available from the curator on request) things were clear enough. In the first room, a diorama of mediaeval Sarajevo clearly revealed the eastern feel of the town, built as it was around mosques, *sukas*, caravanserais and baths.

The Ottoman Vahy, Ghazi Husref Bey, left his stamp everywhere. His constructions included the main mosque, the *medresah*, the spectacular Sahatkuća, around seven public baths, an orthodox church, a synagogue, a plethora of covered markets and about 50 inns. Despite fires, floods and the sack of Sarajevo by Prince Eugene of Savoy in 1697, most of Ghazi Bey's stone buildings were still standing before the latest round of fighting.

The museum contained fragments of some of those buildings that did not survive and reconstructions of the small wooden *ceperci* stalls that were ubiquitous but did not last into the present day. The modern wooden stores in Sarajevo's pedestrian precincts were more like the carefully-groomed shops of Lucerne or Vienna than Istanbul. Many of them have been destroyed in the fighting, of course.

The collection reflected the importance that water is given in the Islamic city, sporting remnants of Sarajevo's first aqueduct (built by the Turks in 1461) and a decorated stone drinking fountain, one of 156 that once dotted the city. Some of these were still in use until recently, inscribed with their sponsor's names, testaments to the charitable impulses of Sarajevo's citizens through the ages. On show were also a number of water skins and finely-worked 18th and 19th century leather and metal bottles used by Muslim pilgrims for bringing holy water back to Sarajevo from Mecca.

With plentiful water supplies and a high awareness of personal hygiene, public and private health institutions appeared in Sarajevo before many of Western Europe's cultural centers. The museum recalls Turkish expertise in the area with a display of medical implements from different periods, including a teeth-clenching case of dentists' tools from the 19th century.

The opulence of the Muslim

The lost glory of Sarajevo



The minaret of a mosque in the old town of Sarajevo

noble woman's toilet was seen in the collection of delicately wrought silver mirrors, cosmetic implements and silver and glass bottles for various unguents, perfumes and salves.

The clothing and jewelry of the East were in evidence here, too, in the shape of elegant and colorful dresses, cloaks and rings, bangles and necklaces of gold and precious stones. All these were relics of Bosnia's

Turkish rulers and the converted Slavic lords, administrators and merchants who served below them.

Interestingly, the religion of the wearer could be guessed from the type of dress displayed, as clothing was one way of differentiating between religions. While Muslims indulged in brightly-colored robes of the finest cloth, non-Muslims had to express submission to Islam through modest, plain clothes, dark colors and as little jewelry as possible.

The display accurately reflected the Turkish love for luxury and conspicuous consumption which stretched to richly ornamented weapons. The value Turks placed on fine arms was passed on to the locals, and has survived in Bosnian folk songs which dwell on all kinds of weapons and their killing qualities.

Fittingly, the assortment of militaria was the museum's most impressive display. The warlike Ottomans and their feudal underlings were enthusiastic patrons of an industry that achieved great feats of design and decoration. The museum has an impressive collection of late mediaeval swords, sabres, maces and *nadzaks*, viciously-toothed weapons for knocking riders off their mounts.

The firearms were perhaps the most impressive feature of the collection, an ironic feature in view of the city's current plight. So highly developed was the work of Bosnian gunsmiths that some gun barrels were literally worth their weight in gold. Some excellent examples are on show in the museum, their rich decoration of gold, silver and mother of

pearl reflecting the individual taste of the competitive aristocrats who commissioned them. As well as about 20 muskets, a large assortment of mainly 19th and 20th pistols is on view. Some of these were constructed with imported Italian parts.

Though not rivaling Damascus or Toledo, Bosnia was widely famed for its blades, particularly its sabres and long knives. These too are represented. In jewel-encrusted scabbards, they were often decorated with ivory and coral, and carry Quranic inscriptions on the blades.

There was also a small but impressive collection of 17th century Turkish armor, including chain mail, studded leather armor and a magnificent formal breastplate in bronze and steel. The decorative plates worn on top of the basic buckler were known as *lokas* and were attached as ornament for special occasions.

It was this sort of adornment that developed into the Montenegro traditional costume. The exquisite example shown also had attached two silver boxes which would have contained copies of the Quran for the warrior to carry into battle — a sign of the righteousness with which the Turkish conquerors waged their *jihads*.

Several sumptuously decorated Qurans were amongst the exhibits, including a colorfully illuminated copy of the 54th recension of the Holy book from the 17th century.

After 45 years of Communism, Bosnian Muslims of the late 20th century were beginning to revive their links with the Islamic world as indeed with the rest of the global community. If they manage to retain their cultural and political autonomy in the face of Serbian and Croatian nationalism, then it is likely that their heritage of eastern culture will become even more relevant in the 21st century.

Jeffrey Lee is a London-based writer and broadcaster. He is currently working on a six-part BBC TV series on Islam.

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Regional Business Report



Turkey seeking to improve ties with Baghdad on oil

TURKEY'S state pipeline company has sent a delegation to Baghdad for the first time since the Gulf Crisis started almost two years ago, in a further indication that Ankara is seeking to improve relations with Iraq.

Officials confirmed that Botas, the pipeline company, sent representatives to the Iraqi capital earlier this month to consider the technical problems involved in re-opening the 1,000 km twin pipeline, which was built to take Iraqi crude to the Mediterranean.

Officials say Turkey has dropped its demands for financial compensation from Baghdad for the loss of revenue which resulted from the imposition of United Nations trade sanctions against Iraq in August 1990. Turkey is instead considering claiming from the Geneva-based UN War Reparation Fund.

With Ankara soon to re-open its embassy in Baghdad, and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel urging reconciliation during

last week's showdown over Iraqi compliance with Gulf War ceasefire resolutions, Turkey is making a renewed effort to improve relations.

Turkey's decision to send Botas to Baghdad follows reports that Iraq is considering building an alternative pipeline through Jordan. The move is a measure of Turkey's concern, that the Gulf crisis should not prejudice its long-term commercial ties with Iraq, before the war its second largest trading partner.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Turkey has lost almost \$600 million in tolls foregone on the twin pipeline from Mosul in north Iraq to Iskenderun on the Mediterranean. Turkey claimed a contractual right to compensation, under the original agreement.

Arab Banking Corp. rises 14%

ARAB Banking Corporation (ABC), the Bahrain-based bank, has announced a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to \$65 million for the first six months. The group's assets rose 2.5 per

cent to \$20.1 billion, while deposits rose to \$16.9 billion from \$16.2 billion, with customer deposits rising 7.7 per cent to \$10.6 billion as interbank deposits remained steady at \$6.3 billion. Loans and advances rose 10 per cent to \$2.2 billion.

ABC last year turned in pre-tax profits of \$90 million after reporting losses of \$47 million the preceding year — due to the effects of the Gulf War.

Mr Abdullah Saudi, president and chief executive, said interest income rose to 64 per cent of earnings from 60 per cent.

Lebanese trade minister to visit Jordan

Lebanon's Minister of Trade and the Economy Dr Samir Makdisi will visit Jordan this month, according to diplomatic sources in Amman. During his visit, Dr Makdisi will sign a new trade agreement between the two countries. The present trade pact regulating commerce between Jordan and Lebanon dates back from the sixties and is badly in need of revision.

National Bank of Kuwait regains vigor

WHEN Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the emirate's banking system was shattered. But within a few months of the invasion National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the largest Kuwaiti bank,

was up and running again.

In May this year, NBK published results for the combined years of 1990-91, its first full set of figures since the invasion.

Though group assets have fallen by 21 per cent since 1989 to \$10.17 billion, profits of \$155.5 million are 32 per cent higher and — to judge by the strength of its capital base — NBK looks even more muscular than it did before the invasion.

Its risk-to-assets ratio has risen from 14.4 per cent before the invasion to 15.2 per cent in May. By the standards of most banks in North America and Europe, this suggests almost excessive caution. But NBK takes the view that it lives in a hazardous part of the world and needs a stronger capital base than western banks.

Saudi intelligence chief fined in BCCI related case

THE US plea-bargaining with Saudi former intelligence chief Sheikh Kamal Adham, who admitted violating banking laws and agreed to pay a \$105 million fine, was settled after long negotiations understood to have involved some political manoeuvres because of his past importance to US administrations.

The fine is unlikely to trouble Mr Adham, who has acquired considerable wealth through prominent Middle East deals. His biggest coup is believed to have been a \$400 million commission

20 years ago, agreed by a group of Japanese oil companies seeking a foothold in Saudi Arabia.

"The BCCI charges might have appeared to many Americans to have involved big money, but it would have been the equivalent to taking the paper clips for Adham," said an Arab former banking official.

In the UK, where Mr Adham is regarded as an old friend of British intelligence interests, he agreed this year to act as a witness in cases being compiled by the Serious Fraud Office.

Mr Adham, with Dr Ghazi Pharaon, a Saudi businessman, and Mr Rogen Tamraz, a banker who recently turned out to be the champion of an alternative BCCI liquidation plan, emerged as the purchasers in 1975 of the Detroit-based Bank of Commonwealth.

Two years later, Mr Adham headed a new takeover for the bank that would become known as First American.

The key to Mr Adham's standing in the west, however, is his long and distinguished pedigree in Middle East intelligence operations. He was trained by the CIA. A half-brother of Iffat, wife of the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Mr Adham became one of the few advisers to win the king's complete trust. Mr Adham was never so close to King Khalid, Faisal's successor, who dismissed him in 1979 when he discovered that Mr Adham had been a mediator in bringing Egypt and Israel together in the Camp David peace accord.

Shipment of Australian sheep arrives in Aqaba

Rick Capel: We seek to provide the best Australian meat to Jordan

WELLARD Rural Export Pty Ltd, Middle East Regional Director Mr Fawzi Ghandour announced that the vessel Uniceep carrying a cargo of live sheep imported from Australia for the local market has arrived in Aqaba.

He added in a special interview that the ship is carrying 41,000 heads of live sheep selected carefully to meet the Jordanian standard of fresh meat. He added that the sheep are of the best quality in terms of age and weight. He added that the sheep, whose average age does not exceed 18

months, were brought from the company's farms. The Australian company is considered one of the largest livestock and meat exporter to the whole world.

Mr Ghandour said the company has the means and the technology to meet the demands of Arab markets of live sheep and frozen meat.

In Jordan it is cooperating with Hijazi & Ghosheh, whose aim is to supply the local market with the best meat. By importing this latest shipment, Hijazi & Ghosheh hopes to offer good quality meat to local consumers at affordable prices. Mr Ghandour expressed his hopes that cooperation between the two companies will continue.

In comparing Australian sheep to Bulgarian and Romanian livestock, Mr Ghandour said those from East European countries are exported seasonably, while Australian livestock is available throughout the year. He added that Australian exporters will supply meat any time if the price is right. He hoped Jordanian consumers will find Australian meat to their taste.



Mr Ghandour

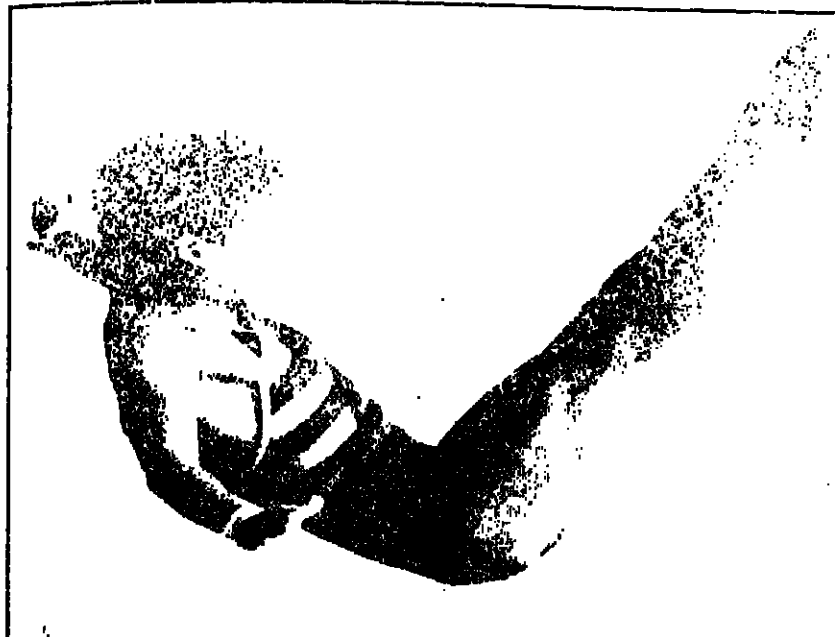
Meanwhile, Mr Rick Capel, deputy chief of the Australian Meat and Live Stock Corporation, said the Australian Government Meat Board is keen on supplying Australian sheep to international markets and the Middle East in specific with the best kinds. He said Australia enjoys a reputation as the largest exporter of sheep and live stock to the whole world. He added that the Australian government looks favourably at cooperating with Jordan and providing the Jordanian market with good quality meat.

Mr Capel said this initial shipment will be monitored by Australian exporters in terms of Jordanian consumers' acceptance of it. He also hoped that all obstacles before trade with Jordan will be overcome. He added that Australia exports around 6 million heads of live sheep to the Arab world annually, in addition to 50,000 tons of frozen meat.

Dr John Lightfoot, principal veterinary officer for the Middle East Region at Australian Meat and Live Stock Corporation, said the Australian government takes special measures to guarantee that shipments are clear of diseases and are fit for human consumption. He added that this latest shipment was subjected to health and veterinary checks in Australia and is monitored during the voyage so that it reaches its destination in perfect health. Dr Lightfoot added that the Jordanian authorities took samples of this shipment and reported that it was in good condition and the shipment was cleared for entry.

Mr Bassam Sabha, director of Maltrans Shipping in Aqaba said his company has worked with Wellard and the vessels' agents to make sure that the ship arrives in the shortest time possible. It made Aqaba in 15 days. All measures have been taken to unload the ship as fast as possible so that the sheep can be sent to the importing farmers within two days.

Mr Ghandour, Mr Capel, Dr Lightfoot and Mr Sabha thanked the efforts of the Ports Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture for all their help and assistance.



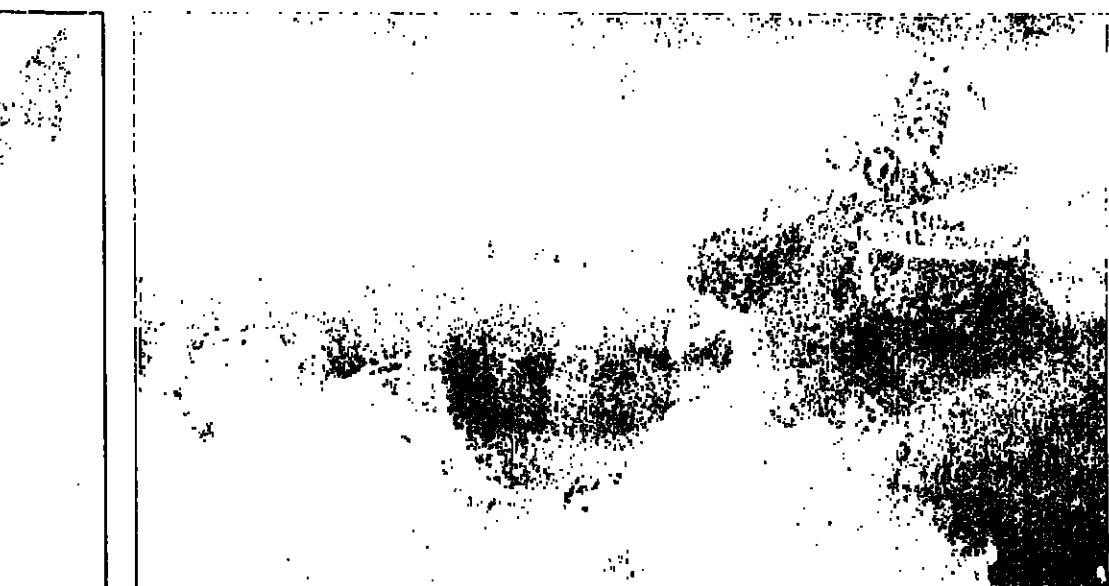
China's teenaged world champion Fu Mingxia plunges gracefully towards gold in the platform diving competition. The 14-year-old was so dominant that the silver medalist, Elena Mirochina finished nearly 50 points behind



Lihford Christie of Britain crosses the finish line to win the 100 meter race, beating Dennis Mitchell of the United States who took the bronze



Magic Johnson of the US team trends the boards during his team's 116-48 victory over Angola. The US team won all of its games so far and will surely take the gold medal in the men's Olympic basketball tournament.



Nick Gillingham of Britain ploughs through troubled waters to win second place in the 100 meter breaststroke final

The Barcelona Olympics

Who gets what from the great carve-up

THE WORLD has switched on its television sets to watch the start of the biggest marketing event ever. By and large, viewers are unaware of the commercial overtones of the Olympics. What they want to see are sporting glories.

But they will be part of a commercial event that has generated \$1.9 billion worth of international sponsorship and television licensing deals involving just one important brand logo: the five interlocking rings of the Olympic Games. The NBC television network alone has paid \$401 million for exclusive rights to broadcast the Games in the US.

What has happened since the financially disastrous Montreal Games is that the IOC has come gradually to see the commercial value of the Olympics. It has sold sponsorship and broadcasting rights in order to make profits to plough back into international sport — and into itself.

The central sponsorship deal for this year's winter and summer Games is called The Olympic Program, or TOP. Each TOP program runs for four years. In the present one, now ending, the IOC has attracted \$175 million (part of the \$1.9 billion overall figure)

from the 12 TOP sponsors. They are Visa International, Coca-Cola, Mars, 3M, Time and its sister publication Sports Illustrated, Bausch and Lomb, Ricoh, Matsushita, Brother, Eastman Kodak, the US Postal Service, and Philips International.

Their contracts with the IOC forbid them from revealing how much they paid individually but IOC's Marketing Director Michael Payne says the individual entry fee for the next TOP program — which will cover the Lillehammer winter Games next year and the Atlanta, Summer Games in 1996 — is \$40 million. The European TV rights for Atlanta have just been sold to the European Broadcast Union for \$250 million, against \$90 million for Barcelona.

Visa, the present lead sponsor, is thought to have paid about \$20 million and the others about \$14 million each, either in cash or services and back-up technology. Like all other TOP sponsors, Bausch and Lomb is using its Olympic connections for other marketing purposes. It calculates that its TOP contribution is "probably doubled or near tripled" when other planned promotional programs, which are given

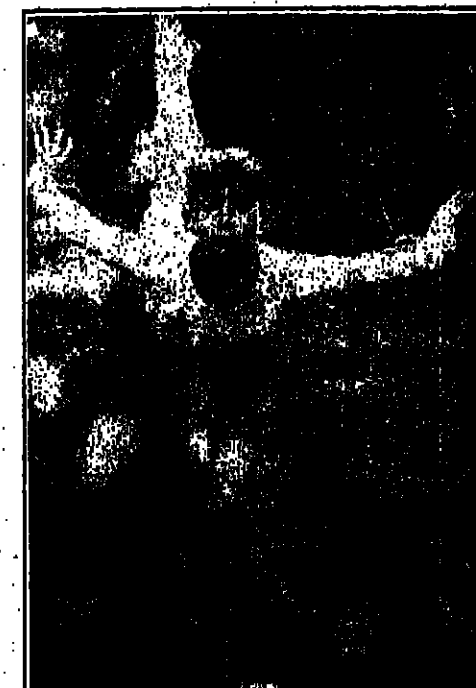
an Olympic twist this year, are taken into account.

Even those not sponsoring the Games directly through TOP regard the event as a crucial TV advertising vehicle. According to the US trade magazine Adweek, General Motors has bought \$40 million, worth of television advertising time in the US over the next fortnight, effectively blocking out some of its main competitors.

Sponsorship ensures that the Barcelona Games are unlikely to make a loss. Perhaps the only sensitive topic left is the slicing-up of the cake. Of the \$1.9 billion for the present TOP period, 75 per cent goes to the local organizing committees in Albertville and Barcelona as well as to the IOC itself.

The remainder goes to the national organizing committees. Of the 170-odd countries competing in Barcelona, 40 will take the lion's share since they are deemed to have the largest markets. The Olympic committees of the smaller nations — arguably, those with the greatest need for cash — will get about \$15,000 plus \$400-per athlete sent to Barcelona.

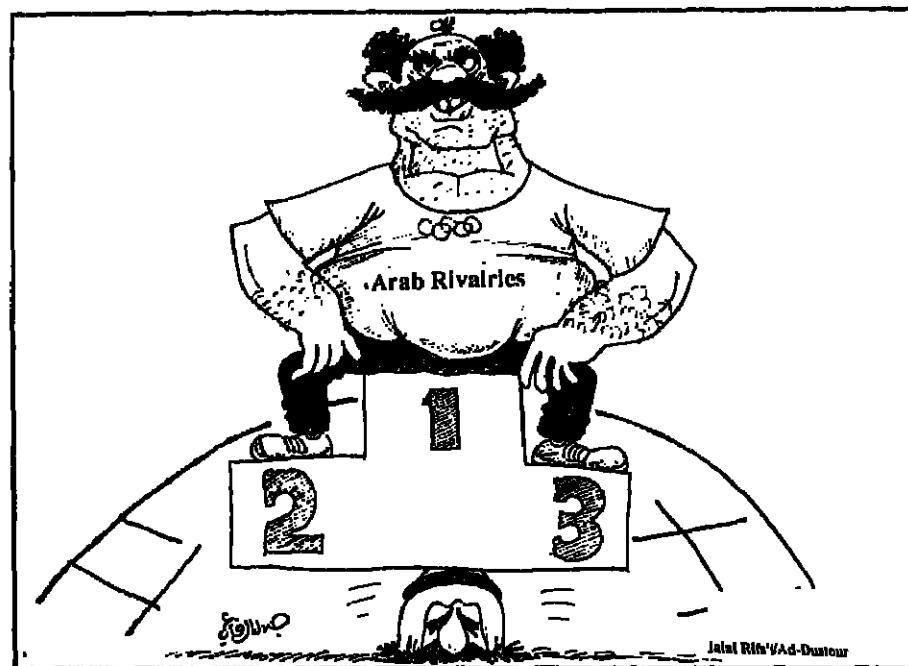
Financial Times



US gymnast Shannon Miller tip-tosses on the beam, but most gold medals were swept by the Unified Team



Gail Devers of the US celebrates her victory in the women's 100 meter sprint in 10.82 seconds making her the fastest woman on earth



Our Say...

Remembering the invasion

THE SECOND anniversary of Iraq's ill-fated invasion of Kuwait was remembered this week by all those who became part of its messy episodes. Iraq echoed its well-versed claims over the oil-rich emirate, while some Kuwaitis braced themselves for a surprise repetition of the invasion on that ominous 2 August morning two years ago. Kuwait was invaded this week, but by US Marines launching ground and sea mock attacks in what was termed as joint US-Kuwaiti manoeuvres.

The Arab countries marked the occasion each in its own way, with some keeping a low profile on their specific role in the crisis and the war which followed, while others bragging about their contribution to the liberation of Kuwait effort.

The United States continued to cash in on one of the saddest epochs in inter-Arab rivalries in modern history. Two years after the invasion, the Gulf region and indeed the whole world underwent mind-boggling changes. A new world order has replaced a world order that existed for over 40 years, with the United States crowning itself as the single most powerful country on the face of the earth. The Arab world, which suffered its worst defeats and set-backs under the former order, finds itself once more divided, weakened and lost under the new order.

Iraq is locked in a time capsule but its wealth, power and presence as a nation are drained out. The country has been divided into three dependent, but separate chunks, with the final outcome of the disfigurement of this country expected shortly.

The Arab League has ceased to exist and the term Arab reconciliation is received with shrugs of disbelief or disinterest.

It is not only Iraq that has been maimed as a political entity, but most of the Arab world as well. The Gulf emirates have severed relations with the rest of the Arabs, opting to put their interests with those of the United States and Britain. The *Maghreb* is oceans away from the *Mashreq* with small countries like Jordan, Yemen and Sudan finding themselves lost in a tumultuous sea of external alliances.

Intellectuals will continue to debate the past and ponder about the future. They will get nowhere. While the Arab world exists as a geographical mass, just like the former Soviet Union it has expired. What we need to do today is to bury the dead and live for tomorrow.

But it would be wrong to condemn the principles of Arab unity just because the term is associated with the darkest period of our lives. We need to cherish the ideals of belonging to a single nation that has a wealth of heritage and history. Our salvation can only come from within and will have to be based on our cultural identity.

And just as we mourn the demise of the Arab League and what it stood for, the optimists among us agree that the ad-hoc mini-orders that replaced it have a slim chance of surviving on their own. The oil-rich club of Arab emirates is playing within a different league today, but it will not be able to escape its geo-political destiny. History will catch up with us sooner or later just as the sins (or blessings) of the fathers shall be visited upon their sons.

For us, the 2 August anniversary should be a time for reflection not on the actual events which happened on that day and the days and weeks that followed, but on the causes for the final debacle which blew apart the shaky foundations of the Arab order and the now-defunct old world order.

Letter from Washington Bush's 'advantage' in foreign policy deserves another look by US voters

By Jenab Tutunji

TALK ABOUT being locked into a policy position! On 3 August an advance team of US Marines landed in Kuwait to engage in joint manoeuvres with the Kuwaiti army. The number of US servicemen in Kuwait will soon rise to 5000. Meanwhile, President Bush has "asked" (read "instructed") the UN to accelerate its weapons inspections in Iraq. The US and Iraq are jockeying for position once again.

It would be silly to deny that this has anything to do with US electoral politics. George Bush is perceived as having an advantage over Bill Clinton in the area of foreign policy expertise. But it is an indication of gross public ignorance that Bush is able to exploit the image of himself as an experienced and reliable hand at foreign policy.

Expressing an opinion that is heard all too infrequently, Walter Russel Mead, senior counsellor of the World Policy Institute at the New School of Social Research, questioned Bush's record as a foreign policy whiz in an op-ed piece last Sunday. Mead points out that Bush's policy on the question of US loan guarantees for Israel has been the president's only notable success in the foreign policy arena.

Otherwise, his record on aid to the former Soviet Union to keep it out of the clutches of fascism, his inaction on the civil war in Yugoslavia which would widen into a more general conflagration in the Balkans and the most severe refugee crisis that Europe has faced since WWII, and his inability to deal with the deplorable international economic situation, amounts to a pretty dismal performance. That is not to mention his record in Iraq.

On 30 July, *The New York Times* carried an article quoting "a senior United Nations inspector" to the effect that the stand off at the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad between the Iraqi government and the UN inspection team may have been a result of ignorance and bungling by the UN.

To begin with, the UN was acting on the basis of an unconfirmed tip from an informant, and had no solid basis for suspecting that the ministry held files of incriminating evidence, despite the pretensions of Rolf Ekeus, the head of the team. Second, the inspectors were initially blissfully ignorant of the fact that the building they attempted to storm — like a bunch of cops carrying out a drug bust — was in fact a government ministry, and an understanding had only recently been reached with Iraq that searches of ministries were to be conducted directly in a manner indicating respect for Iraq's sovereignty.

This could easily explain Iraq's challenge to the UN team. It also raises serious questions as to the competence of Mr Ekeus as well as his objectivity. He simply could not have had grounds for claiming, as he did, that he had good reason to believe that the ministry housed incriminating documents on Scud missiles. Because of the way the crisis was resolved, the world will now never know.

Yet President Bush as well as the leaders of Britain and France were prepared to subject Iraq to another round of punitive bombing, with all the "collateral damage" and civilian deaths and suffering that would have involved, on the basis of the standoff at the Ministry of Agriculture and because Iraq was supposedly violating the terms of the cease-fire in combating Shi'ite rebels in the South.

If it comes to the question of Shi'ite

rebels, the time to help them is long past. Bush failed to seize the opportunity when it offered itself in the immediate aftermath of the war when the rebellion was in full swing.

Even then, it is questionable whether it would have been in Washington's interest to do so, as Nanceer Ali Jawdat, an Iraqi writer pointed out in the *Outlook* section of *The Washington Post*. "Having encouraged revolts by Kurds in the north and Arabs (both Sunni and Shi'ite) in the south, the American government was flabbergasted when Iranian irregulars all but took over the south and made the struggle sectarian, with pictures of the Ayatollah Khomeini everywhere. America suddenly realized that an impotent Iraq would give Iran *de facto* control of the Persian Gulf."

In fact, American TV networks have begun to carry stories of how Iran has been busily rearming with remarkable success while the world's attention was focused on Iraq. If the United States is to avoid the necessity of maintaining a sizable military force in the Gulf indefinitely, then a strong Iraq will be necessary to counterbalance a potentially even stronger Iran. Things seem to have come around full circle.

What of Bush's much touted New World Order? How can one respect a world order whose only moral imperative is to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of Third World countries, only to insure a monopoly on their use for the rich and powerful? How can one respect a world order that is indifferent to "ethnic cleansing," genocide, concentration camps and other atrocities against civilians?

Is the moral conscience of the West pricked only by the question of who controls Middle Eastern oil? *The New York Times* editorialized on Tuesday: "By standing aside while (Milosevic) implements his version of the Final Solution, the world sets a frightening precedent for a dozen other areas of ethnic tension... Do Europe's leaders think that if Mr Milosevic gets what he wants in Bosnia, that will be the end of it? There can be little doubt that he will pursue his 'ethnic cleansing' campaign in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, like Kosovo or Macedonia. Or that a successful pogrom in Bosnia will inspire demagogues elsewhere in Europe to adopt the same tactics."

The United States, Britain and France chose to go to war against Iraq rather than to pursue peaceful means to secure the liberation of Kuwait. Yet they have chosen not to go to war over Serbian atrocities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Does that not evoke echoes of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on his return from Munich, where his country and France let Hitler have his way with Czechoslovakia to guarantee peace? Where did that lead? Since then the name of Chamberlain has been associated with shameful appeasement. The same leaders who see Hitler under every bush to suit their own purposes are reluctant to recognize Hitler when he actually appears on the scene.

The prescribed Western cure, an economic boycott, is not working, although it is to President Bush's credit that even that much leverage is being applied. Unless they do something forceful to end the genocide in Bosnia soon, I would recommend the leaders of Britain, France and the US for Neville Chamberlain awards.

Jenab Tutunji is a Jordanian journalist residing in Washington.



The **Star**
Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

Auto '92
Special Media Supplement

Japan's auto strategy for the future Domestic luxury car sales accelerate

■ WHEN JAPANESE domestic vehicle registrations went into reverse last year for the first time since 1984, luxury cars were the only market segment to buck the trend, with sales up an impressive 42 per cent.

It therefore comes as no surprise that Japan's naturally competitive car industry executives are stepping on the gas to overtake one another in this lucrative and fast-growing market.

To do so, vehicle designers and marketing officials must steer towards luxury car buyers whose profiles are in some respects significantly different from those in Europe and North America.

"The content of the Japanese market is very different," says Mr Junzo Shimizu, deputy general manager of overseas planning for Toyota.

"In the American luxury auto market, you're talking mostly about private cars. In particular, lately there have been a lot of baby boomers and what are called yuppies or dinkies (double income, no kids). These are often relatively wealthy people in their mid-40s.

In contrast, the Japanese luxury car market is a strange one, like no other in the world. The main

group of buyers are individualistic corporate presidents, or private business owners. There is also no system in which large company employees are provided with (self-driven) cars."

Mr Shimizu estimates that owners of small companies comprise 50-50 per cent of the Japanese luxury car market, individuals 30-40 per cent and large companies less than 10 per cent. This contrasts sharply with corporations' small portion of luxury car sales in the US and their roughly 80 per cent share in Europe, he says.

Meanwhile, the emergence of a well-heeled class of owner-managers has been the critical fuel for the recent acceleration of domestic luxury car sales, says Mr Hiroo Watanabe managing director of Honda's research and development centre in Wako, where the number three Japanese auto maker conducts product planning, styling and other design work.

"The corporate market has changed a great deal in the past five or 10 years. In the past, company cars were chauffeur driven with priority given in the rear seat. But lately, with owners driving themselves around, the front

seat is equally emphasized," he says.

The importance of this market is not missed by foreign competitors. For example, General Motors of the US has recently run advertisements in local newspapers showing its Buick Park Avenue and head-lined simply: "Company image."

Increasingly affluent salaried employees also have been buying up a significant share of Honda's range of relatively small luxury cars, Mr Watanabe adds.

"The average buyers are fairly young. Many are in their thirties and some in their late twenties. There is also quite a number of salaried workers (salaried workers), which wasn't the case in the past."

Just how rapidly the market will grow over the next few years is open to question. Economic difficulties are leaving many target customer groups feeling far less affluent than in recent years.

"During the bubble economy era, people invested in stocks and land, got a lot of money and bought expensive cars. But now the reverse reaction is rather severe and I'd say growth is likely

Continued on page 11

We put
a lot of thought into
our first car.

75 years later,
our cars
think a lot about you.



They were shipbuilders. Probably the best in their time. But this elite team of engineers wouldn't stop at conquering the sea.

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That moment made Japanese motor vehicle history, and launched Mitsubishi's 75 year tradition of automotive firsts. But

while the same spirit of innovation lives on, it has evolved into much more than a knack for advanced engineering. At Mitsubishi today, automotive innovation is the discovery of new and unexpected ways to enhance the relationship between cars and people. And between technology and our earth.

Driver and passenger safety as touchstones for every new idea. Cleanliness and conservation as ultimate virtues to pursue. These are but some of the arenas where Mitsubishi designers and engineers demonstrate their commitment to human and environment-conscious innovation. And

their achievements continue to include important industry firsts — each refuelling the same pride and determination that propelled those ambitious shipbuilders so long ago.

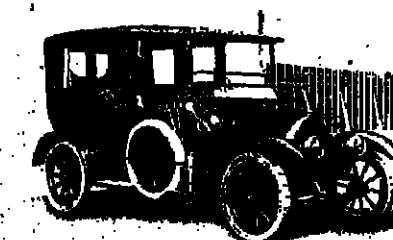
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Espero and Racer from Daewoo Striking blend of style and performance

Smart and lively, the Espero breezes into 1992 with styling that's ready for today and right for tomorrow. Its modern exterior styling is a winner and it is a vehicle which is bound to catch the attention of driving enthusiasts wherever it goes.

With wrap-around, grilleless mask and flush surface styling, the Espero has a drag coefficient of 0.29. It aerodynamically slices the wind in motion and is a genuine eye-catcher at curbside.

Extensive use of CAD (Computer Aided Design) ensures greater body rigidity. In addition, adoption of a R-RIM bumper and non-jamming doors provides further protection in collision.

Espero, from Daewoo has airconditioning, power and tilt steering, electronic outside rear view mirror, central door locks, power windows, tinted glass and a high powered stereo system.

Electronically controlled 4 speed automatic transmission with over-drive is available as an option. It offers two driving modes. For lower fuel consumption, the economy mode can be selected while performance-oriented driving may use the power mode. In case of automatic transmission failure, manual operation is also possible.

The Espero features a 1,998cc fuel injection engine that provides power of 100 horses with an acceleration of 0-200 miles in just 11.4 seconds, plus gradeability of 0.556.

The Espero interior is both spacious and stylish. Its reclining front bucket seats and contoured rear with integrated headrests are designed to provide cozy comfort and pure riding.

The front suspension system employs McPherson strut integrated with coil spring and hydrotype cartridge shock absorbers, and these reduce shock and vibration for perfect pleasure.

Another Daewoo car available in Jordan is the Racer — a car that will excite every driver with its rare mix of style, safety, driving enjoyment and affordability. The Racer features the latest in aerodynamic styling, performance and safety. It is a perfect combination of German engineering, GM technology, and Daewoo Motor's precision production quality. The car has endured some of the very rugged tests including speed testing on Germany's Autobahn.

Daewoo cars agent in Jordan is South Trading and Equipment Co. Its sister company, Jordanian Asian Trading and Equipment Co. is agent for Asia Motors the makers of Combi and Topic buses and vans. ■

Japan's auto strategy for the future

Continued from page 9

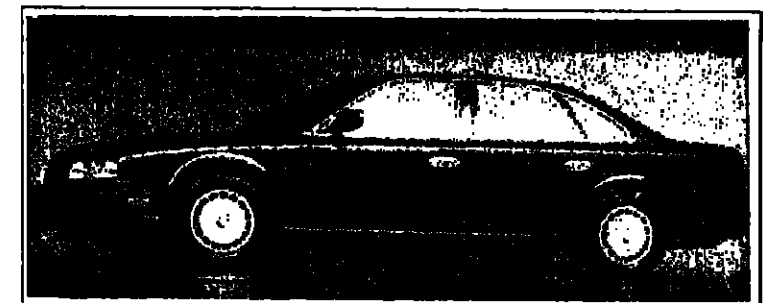
to slow," says Mr Shimizu. "We'll be pleased if sales increase, but in the near future I don't think there will be a large rise."

He also describes the rapid sales gains for cars with engines of 2,000cc or over — called three-number vehicles in Japan due to their license plate designation — as a one-time response to a dramatic tax cut two years ago.

Over the longer term, both officials said they expected the market for three-number cars to increase steadily. That is not to say the ratio to total car sales will necessarily match North American standards. For one thing, the post-war American baby boom involved a decade of high birth rates, which are now translating into showrooms filled with affluent middle-aged car buyers, notes Mr Shimizu. In Japan, birth rates jumped for a far shorter period, he says.

Another impediment to dramatic increases is the high dependence of luxury car sales on drivers in leading urban areas. They are especially plagued by clogged roads, expensive parking and market saturation. Nationally, the mid-range Corolla leads Toyota sales, while in Tokyo the luxury Mark II and Crown models top the list, Mr Shimizu notes.

Fortunately for car makers, the luxury vehicles that do roll out of



Japanese makers are focusing on the luxury market

domestic showrooms are money machines, thanks to the willingness of Japan's gadget-loving drivers to pay up for lucrative options.

"Americans look for value while Japanese customers have more of an attitude that anything is okay," says Mr Shimizu.

How far does Japanese drivers' willingness to pay for the latest high-tech gadgets go? According to Mr Shimizu, one indication is that 20 per cent of Toyota's top-of-the-line Celsior models, known as the Lexus abroad, that leave showrooms with satellite sensor navigation systems costing the equivalent of \$5,000 — an option not even available in the US.

Overseas, luxury cars are also highly profitable for car manufacturers, which has prompted the three Japanese leaders to set up separate subsidiaries with distinct brand images in North America. Toyota owns Lexus, Nissan the Infiniti line and Honda markets

its high-end vehicles as Accura. The Toyota and Honda officials said their companies were not seeking under export quotas to the EC to replace large shares of lower priced cars with luxury models or set up independent sales arms as they have in the US.

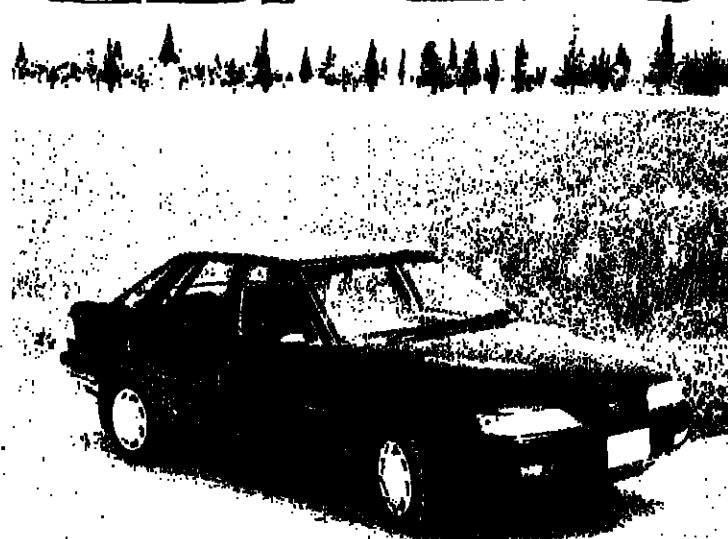
"Toyota is a volume manufacturer, unlike Mercedes Benz and BMW, so we are not looking to increase luxury car sales while those for regular cars decrease," says Mr Shimizu.

In fact, Toyota sold just 2,100 Lexus cars in the EC last year, compared to 38,000 in the US and 32,900 at home, which helps explain why it is still operating like an upstart in the luxury market.

"We offer many options in the US. But in Europe we sell so few (luxury) cars that we equip them with what would be considered close to the full range of options in America," the Toyota executive says. ■

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1993 models: The new Mitsubishi Colt

HIKMAT-international holds AUTO 93' in November

HIKMAT-international is planning to organize The Jordan International Automobiles, Parts and Accessories Exhibition - AUTO 93' in Amman next November.

The Amman-based international fairs organizers will organize the event at the Amman International Motor Show between 11-20 November.

HIKMAT-international Manager Mr Walid Hikmat said buyers are now paying more attention to speed, performance, safety, comfort, luxury and economy in automobiles especially with the technological breakthroughs that the industry has seen in the last decade.

He added that the Jordan automobiles market experienced a tangible growth since the restructuring of Jordan's import policy five years ago, despite the flow of returned vehicles during the Gulf War. Jordan imports over 36 brands of automobiles not to mention other transport vehicles ranging from the most economical to the most luxurious models.

For the average citizen, price has been the dominating factor in deciding which AUTOMOBILE to own. AUTO 93' Exhibition is tailored to acquaint the end user with the variety for options available in the local market, and to enlighten the user on how to compromise between initial cost, running cost, luxury, performance, durability and above all investment, Mr Hikmat said.

The world auto scene Skirmishes in Europe; pitched battles in the US

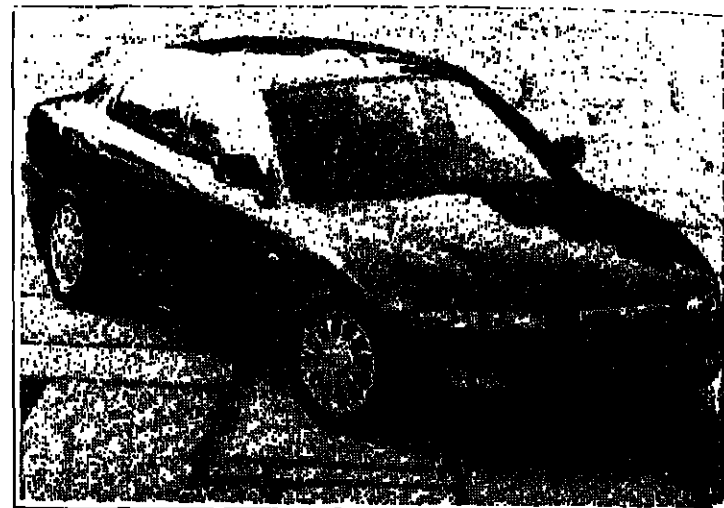
IT WAS only days after Peugeot and Rover, and European car makers, decided to pull out of the US car market last year that Mazda, Japan's fourth-largest car manufacturer, announced it was creating a separate luxury car franchise in the US.

Mazda is following in the tracks of Honda, Toyota and Nissan. The contrast between European retrenchment and Japanese expansion in the US underlines the startling progress Japanese carmakers have made to the higher reaches of the American car market since Toyota and Nissan launched their luxury franchises in autumn 1989.

In some months last year, Toyota's Lexus and Nissan's Infiniti franchises both outsold BMW and Mercedes-Benz in the US.

Infiniti and Lexus came first and second in the latest Initial Quality Study published this month by J.D. Power, one of the most authoritative US analysts of quality and customer satisfaction in the world car industry.

The Japanese car makers are yet to enter with force into the luxury and executive car market in Europe but there are already strong signs that the Japanese challenge will move to Europe



Mazda's new Xedos 6 sports saloon

during the 1990s. The European car makers know the scale of the problems they are facing because the luxury-executive car battle with the Japanese makers has already been joined in earnest for at least two years in the US.

As the Japanese car makers develop their local production presence in Europe — as they have done in the US in the past decade — they will be able to make some of their main volume cars in Europe and begin importing more executive and luxury cars under their import quotas. By the end of this year Nissan, Toyota and Honda will all be producing cars at their own plants in the UK, while Mitsubishi will follow by 1994-95 at its joint venture plant in the Netherlands.

To date, their presence in the European executive-luxury market has amounted to only preliminary skirmishes. Toyota has shied away as yet from direct confrontation with BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Jaguar in Europe and is only selling limited volumes of its flagship Lexus LS400 luxury saloon. Nissan is not yet bringing its current generation Infiniti cars to Europe.

Mazda is already testing the water, however, with the launch of its Xedos 6 sports saloon, a car which it is pitching squarely against BMW. It is clear that Mazda has ambitions to establish a much broader range of sporty executive and luxury cars in the European market during the 1990s.

The pitched battle in the US however.

BMW's overall sales in the US last year fell by 16.2 per cent to 53,343, while Mercedes-Benz sales plunged by 24.9 per cent to 58,868. In particular segments, the damage was far greater — sales of BMW's top-of-the-range 7-Series fell by 47.3 per cent to 5,508. Porsche sales fell by 52.0 per cent. Jaguar suffered a drop in sales in the US last year of 49.9 per cent while Audi sales plunged by 41.8 per cent.

The local American competition to the US luxury car market fared little better last year, with General Motors' Cadillac sales dropping by 17.4 per cent, and Ford's Lincoln marque suffering a drop of 22.9 per cent.

While their rivals were losing sales volume, the Japanese were winning additional market share. Sales volumes of Toyota's Lexus franchise rose by 12.1 per cent to 71,206, outselling its prestigious German rivals, while Honda's

longer established Acura franchise also increased sales by 3.8 per cent.

Nissan's Infiniti franchise was the star performer, however. It started much more slowly than Lexus after the autumn 1989 launch but last year it began to close the gap, increasing its sales by 45.6 per cent to 34,890.

Lexus and Infiniti have both been helped by the launch of new models, and Infiniti has now expanded to a four-model range with the Q-20, the recently introduced J30, the M30 and the flagship Q45 luxury saloon. In the first four months of 1992 alone, Lexus has sold 8,132 units of its recently-launched SC400,300 coupe.

This year, the US luxury car market has brightened for several of the players as the US struggles out of recession. Mercedes-Benz has increased its US sales by 18 per cent in the first five months of 1992, while BMW has achieved a 23.8 per cent increase and Jaguar a rise of 12.6. Cadillac sales are 5.5 per cent higher than a year ago, although Lincoln's fortunes continue to decline sharply with a drop of 18.4 per cent.

The Japanese luxury car players are not infallible in the US and Acura has begun to lose ground this year with a drop of 11 per cent.

Lexus and Infiniti are both still gaining on their rivals, however, with Lexus boosting its sales in the first five months by 72.4 per cent and Infiniti achieving an increase of 38.9 per cent.

Mazda is planning to enter the US luxury car market with a separate sales channel, to be called Amati, in spring 1994. Amati's initial product line-up will be two luxury saloons and the Japanese carmaker aims to sell about 20,000 cars under the new marque in its first year. It is likely that a sporting coupe will be added later.

Mazda has been studying an entry into the US luxury car market for two years with its Peugeot task-force and has concluded that the prospects are too 'mouth-watering' to be ignored. It says the number of affluent households in the US with an income of at least \$75,000 a year is increasing from 2 million in 1988 to 2.5 million in 1995.

The Amati cars are to be built at a newly-constructed manufacturing plant in Hofu, Japan, dedicated to production luxury vehicles.

Continued on page 13

National Paints establishes itself in Jordanian and Middle Eastern markets

The National Paints Factories Co. has established a new special department for the purpose of research works and development. This department was equipped with the special necessary labs, computers and other equipments.

A number of qualified, talented and experienced engineers and chemists were employed and sent to European and American companies, which National Paints cooperates with, in order to get the best training and practical knowledge.

There is also a contract of cooperation between the company and the Royal Scientific Society in order to ensure that the company's production is in conformity with international standards.

The National Paints Factories Co., a pioneer paints factory in the Middle East, was established in 1969 and began production in 1970. In 1984, and due to the massive external and internal market demand, the factory moved to new location south east Amman on a 10,000 sq.m building in Abu Alanda.

General Manager Mr Michael says that his company believes in Arab industrial and economic unity, and so two further paints factories were established in two different Arab countries, one in the UAE in 1977 and the other in Qatar in 1989.

Few types of paints were produced in the early beginnings of 1970s. But now and after the massive development in types and ways of production and after the establishment of the necessary scientific laboratories and the use of computer in management, production, marketing, distribution and scientific research, the factory produces all kinds of paints according to the international measurements.

To enhance this developments and to strengthen cooperation with other companies, the National Paint Factories Co. concluded under license agreements with several companies, such as DYRUP of Denmark in 1974 and Sherwin Williams of the United States in 1987.

The world auto scene

Continued from page 12

The Amati operation is to be a separate division of the Japanese manufacturer's US subsidiary, Mazda Motor of America, with its headquarters in Irvine, California. A number of regional offices are also to be set up.

"Mazda intends to become a significant competitor in the luxury car market," says Mr Keljo Asamo, senior managing director of the parent Mazda Motor Corporation and chairman of Mazda Motor of America.

While Mazda is enthusiastic about the challenge and the potential rewards offered by the US luxury car market, some of its weaker European rivals have decided that the strain of competing as marginal players in the world's most fiercely contested area can no longer be supported.

Rover's decision to stop exporting its Rover 800 Sterling range to the US came after continuing heavy losses and dwindling US sales. Ever since the company re-entered the US market under the Sterling brand-name in 1987, it was dogged by quality problems and was increasingly burdened by excessive stocks of old models.

Rover has maintained its separate Range Rover of North American operation to market luxury four-wheel drive leisure vehicles.



Lexus SC 400 sports coupe from Toyota

Like Peugeot, Rover faces a mighty challenge from the Japanese in the UK and in continental Europe during the 1990s, and it could no longer afford prestigious but very costly battles in the US.

The withdrawals of Peugeot and Rover from the US mean they will no longer be exposed to the rigors and disciplines imposed by the US market, however.

According to Mr Carl Hahn, management board chairman of Volkswagen, the biggest European car maker which has struggled in America in recent years — with both its VW and Audi

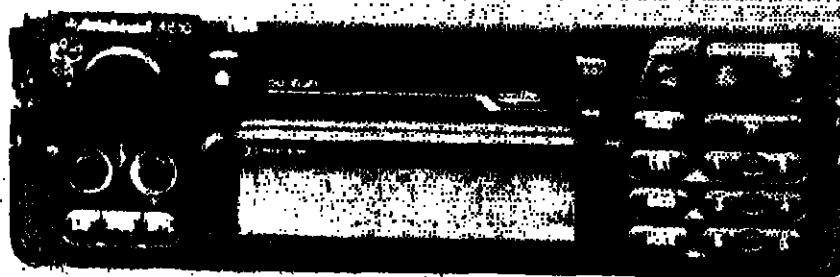
brands — "The US market is important in particular because it sets the benchmark for competition in the world market, and also because it shapes social demands on the car, in exhaust emissions for example."

"We simply cannot afford to give up either the opportunities offered by the US market or the learning processes and experience it imposes."

The Japanese challenge in America is still growing and the lessons learned there can be brought to bear at any time in Europe.

Financial Times

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Meet the McLaren's F1 road car

The world's most desirable sports car

THE MCLAREN F1 road car is a car of revolutionary design, bristling with advanced features. Yet it is already a car with a rich and colorful heritage. When Bruce McLaren was tragically killed whilst testing at Goodwood in 1970, with him went his dream of producing "the ultimate road-going sports car." The foundations he had laid, however, ensured that the company he created not only survived, but went on to set new standards in the world of motor racing.

Bruce McLaren Motor Racing Ltd was formed in 1964 and earned many successes, the most notable being the unique achievement of winning five consecutive CanAm Challenge series titles between 1967 and 1971. It won the Indianapolis 500 classic three times through the 1970s.

In Formula One itself, the team was soon established as one of the front runners, winning World Championship titles in 1974 with Emerson Fittipaldi, in 1976 with James Hunt, with Niki Lauda in 1984, Alain Prost (1985, 1986 and 1989) and Ayrton Senna (1988, 1990 and 1991). The team has won seven World Drivers' Championships in the last eight years and six Constructors' Championships in the same period.

McLaren Cars Ltd was formed

in 1989 with the objective of designing and manufacturing a radical high-performance road car using the race team's rich basis of technological experience and specialist facilities. Gordon Murray was appointed Technical Director, transferring his universally respected skills from the race track to the road. Together with Creighton Brown, commercial director, he set about recreating a highly talented group of individuals with a wealth of motor industry experience.

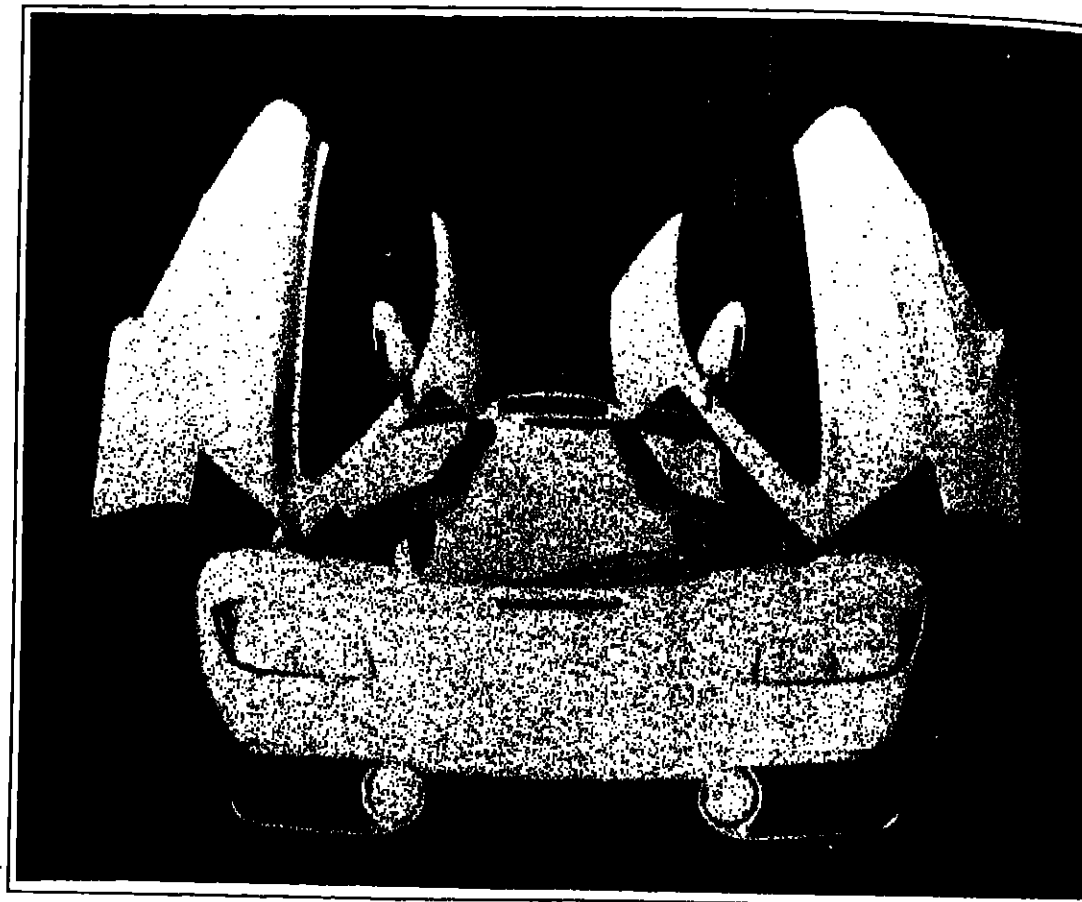
The three-year program to design and develop the first prototypes began in earnest in 1990 in a purpose-built facility located adjacent to the McLaren racing team's headquarters in Surrey, England.

When the first production car rolls out of the factory in late 1993, it will be establishing new standards of build quality, styling and technological innovation for high-performance road vehicles.

The McLaren F1 is powered by a 6.1 litre V12 engine, specially commissioned by McLaren and designed and built by BMW Motorsport in Germany.

The production McLaren F1 is designed to be:

- The world's first all advanced-composites monocoque



chassis/body production car

- The world's first to feature 1 plus 2 seating with central driving position

- The world's first to feature fan-assisted ground-effect aerodynamics
- The world's first with active aerodynamic centre of pressure control
- The world's first with electronically controlled brake cooling

The £530,000 McLaren F1 is designed to have the highest power-to-weight ratio of any production road car ever built, and its phenomenal performance may well make it the world's fastest

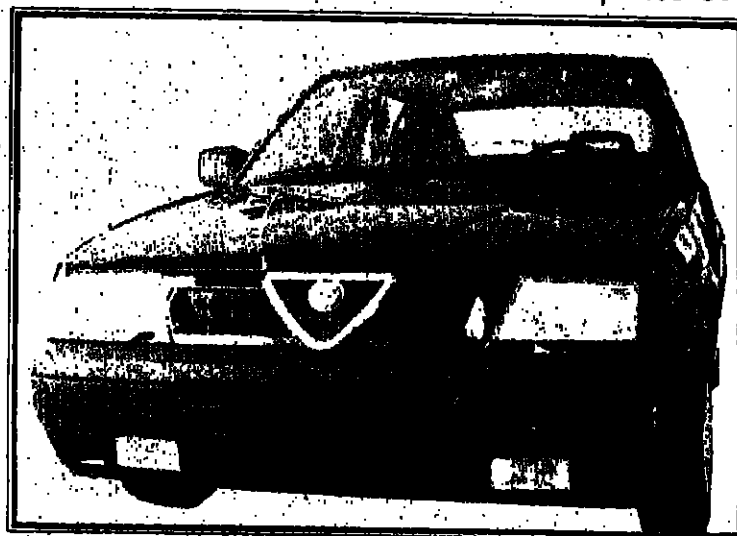
road-going sports car targeting at a top speed of 320 kph.

The immensely strong and rigid advanced composites chassis and body unit combines very light weight with extreme safety and efficiency.

Radical design features have also rendered four-wheel drive, power steering, and anti-lock braking, unnecessary. These features were also considered undesirable in the interests of efficiency and weight-saving, coupled with the desire to build a pure 'driver's car'. ■

Alfa Romeo 33

88hp 1.3 cc



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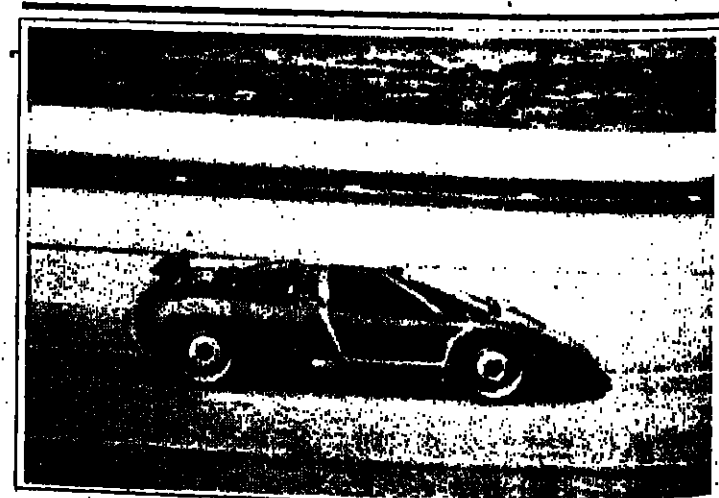
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As you would expect from a company with Alfa's sporting heritage, the high standards of engineering excellence and sophistication found in the engine design are also evident in the design of the chassis and suspension. Whatever the conditions, whatever the load on board, the 33 delivers remarkable road-holding and features a whole host of active safety devices.

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New Bugatti clocks speed record of 342 kph

The Bugatti EB 110 has set a new speed record on 24 May this year on the Nardo racetrack near Naples. Driven by Jean-Philippe Veuille, the Bugatti clocked 342 kph on its fourth lap of the 12 — 565 kilometer circuit.

Past records were held by the Ferrari F40 at 324 kph and by the Lamborghini Diablo at 325 kph.

The Bugatti EB 110 features a 3500cc V-12 engine developing 561 hp at 8,000rpm thanks to 4 turbo compressors.

The feat can be attributed to the technical competence of the Bugatti team engineers, headed by chief engineer Nicholas Materazzi.

Also on the technical team are Aerospaziale, which developed the chassis in carbon-fiber and ELP which developed a biodegradable lubricant for EB 110.

Bugatti engineers are currently working on the Supersport version, 200-kilos lighter, with more powerful engine (661 hp).

The revived legendary name will then be all set to indulge in its rich son d'epre competition. ■

The West-East raid

The rebirth of a legendary rally

The Paris-Moscow-Beijing rally is set to kick off this September

THE FIRST Beijing-Paris car race was conceived back in 1907 by Le Mallin, a French newspaper. Daring adventurers — 105 of them — entered it. Only five of them, however, embarked on the historic adventure on the 10th of June. By the time the competitors reached the rolling terrain of Mongolia, only three cars were still in the race.

Forty-seven days after the start in Beijing, the same three cars made it to Moscow, overcoming a countless number of hardships and troubles on the way. Then, on the 10th of August, Marquis Borghese of Italy, driving a 40-ps Fiat Italia, finally crossed the finish line in Paris before the others. Since that day many people have tried to revive this legendary challenge to achieve fame and make history, but their dreams were not realized.

In September 1992, the dream will finally come true — at the starting point of the 1st West-East Paris/Moscow/Beijing Marathon Raid.

Starting in Paris, the route goes through European countries and reaches the second starting point in Moscow. This state is the passage way (liaison) to the full-scale rally which begins from Moscow.

The distance of 3,000km from Paris to Moscow is covered in a mere 3 days. The course is for the most part made up of highways.

The route goes through Cheikar of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and hits the desolate Kazakh Steppes. Here in the summer, the scorching sun beats down on the earth, and in winter, a cold wind blows across the steppes. In this area, the topography is uneven with numerous intersecting faults, and the landscape is marked by bare, white limestone mountains.

Moving across the desolate plains of Kazakh, there are salt hills with dried-up lake beds, dotting the white landscape. The course goes through the Kazakh Steppes toward Beyneu which is close to the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea and then to the Kara Kum Desert.

The expansive Kara Kum Desert is a part of the Turkmen Republic. It stretches across an area of about 300,000 square kilometers, and is one of the untouched areas of Central Asia. The only thing seen in this arid landscape is dried underbrush. Temperature often climbs to 50c and over.

The real challenging part of the rally has just begun.

The route goes through the Kara Kum desert and runs into the Amu Darya River. The river is crossed by ferry providing a welcome break in the rally.

Racing through the isolated fields and desert, even a strong spirit can sometimes be discouraged. Then the rally goes through the towns towards Tashkent famous for its cultural relics.

Central Asia is a distinctive area that is formed from a unaltered mixture of peoples, religions and cultures.

This land has been settled only by the people who have conquered the punishing and unforgiving nature. One cannot fail to be touched by the life of those nomads who inhabit this great ex-

pense of land.

After crossing the Amu Darya River, the intense competition starts up again toward the China-Soviet border.

At the border of China and the former Soviet Union are the Tien Shan Mountains, which stretch from the Pamir plateau to the east for 2,000 kilometers. Their average height is 3,700 meters, and near the mountain peaks, even glacial conditions are encountered.

Moving from the Soviet Union up to the Kashgar region, the scaring mountains are topped with brilliant snow. This region lets all the entrants fully take in the wonders of nature.

Kashgar is located at the western edge of the Taklamakan Desert. This town prospected has for more than 2,000 years as an important intersection of the Silk Road. Here, the influence of the Islamic culture is vivid. Approximately 90 per cent of the population made up by the Uigur tribe. It is this town Kashgar which once welcomed Hsuan-chang and Marco Polo, travelling through the Pamir Plateau.

The course reached Hotan via Qarghaliq from Kashgar. The first special Stage in China is in Qarghaliq. Then going through deep valleys and sand dunes in Hotan, the entrants begin the most difficult portion — the Taklamakan Desert.

"Taklamakan" in Chinese means "Once get into, never can get out" in particular, from Niya to Charchan and Charkhaliq are fields with a poor vegetation. But the slopes are steep and skillful driving is a must.

The competition takes place in real challenging climate conditions in a desert characterized by sharp differences in day and night temperatures as well as sand storms marked by typhoon-strength winds.

The Taklamakan Desert stretches for about 370,000 square kilometers, and is dotted with countless numbers of sand dunes.

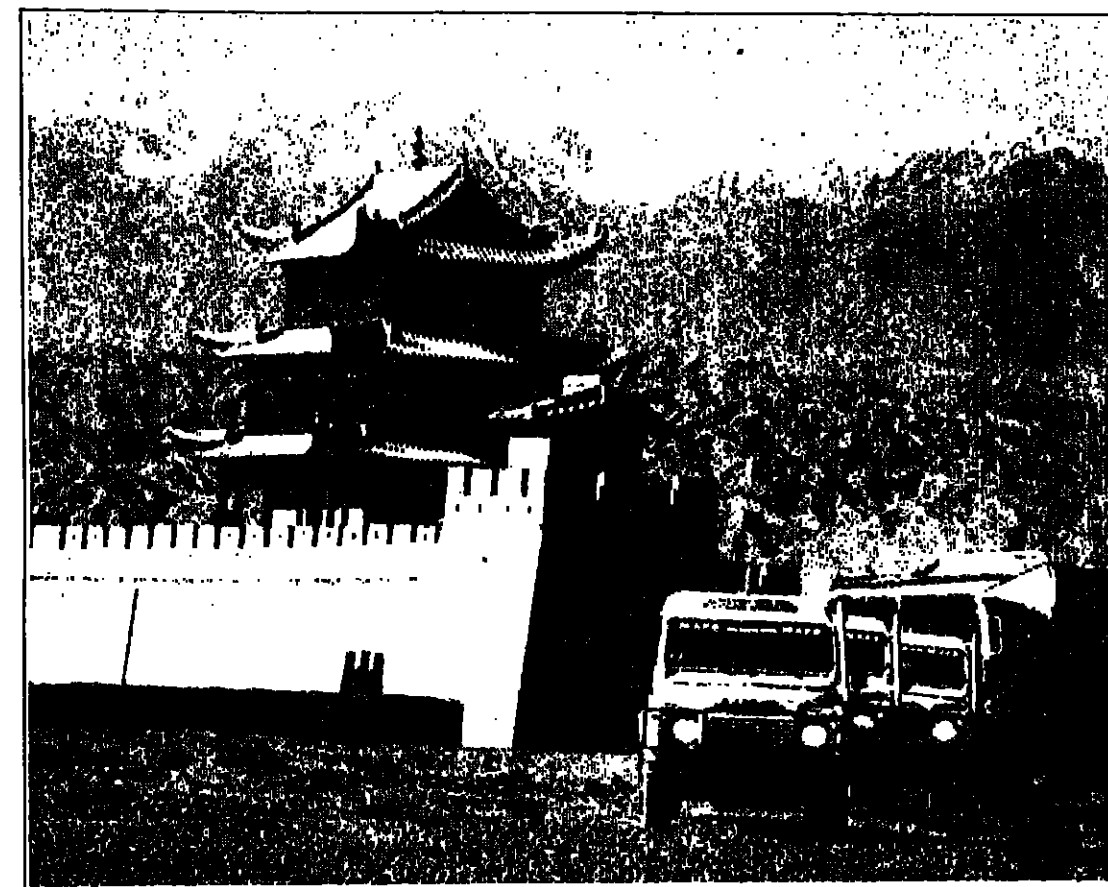
At this point in the rally, two-thirds of the course is finished. This part remains as the final stage in the Paris/Moscow/Beijing Marathon Raid and the challenge of nature, including the Gobi Desert, is still in store.

The course goes from Salkin to Dunhuang. Dunhuang has flourished as a main point along the Silk Road at which the East and West have long come into contact with each other. The drivers going through Dunhuang will move to Wu Wei and gear up for the highlight of the second half of the rally; the Gobi Desert.

The Gobi Desert, which is one of the largest desert regions in the world, is a rocky plateau stretching to a length of 1,500 km and a width of 500 to 1,500km. Leaving the Gobi Desert the entrants finally reach their goal in Beijing, going through the southern edge of Mongolia.

The final entry into Beijing marks the climax of the 16,000 km-long Paris/Moscow/Beijing Marathon Raid.

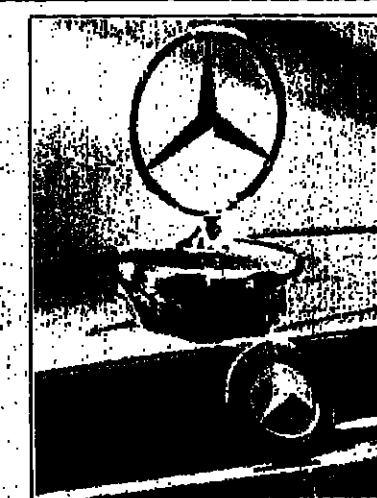
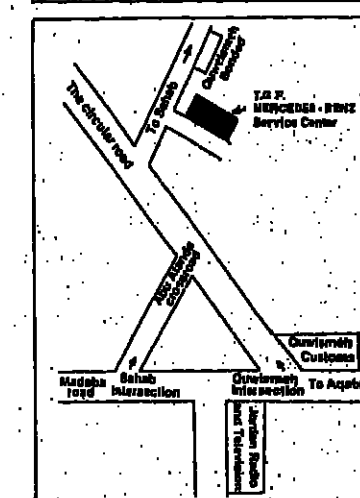
Rene Metge, three-time winner of the Paris-Dakar rally, says that key words for this rally are "Adventure, Encounter, Discovery and Challenge." ■



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'Group working' German-style

■ GERMAN MAKERS are getting their act together. Mercedes acknowledges that Japanese manufacturers on average have a 35 per cent production cost advantage over their German competitors. About 10 per cent of that is accounted for by relatively low capital costs in Japan and the extraordinarily long working hours the competition squeezes out of

its workforce.

Mr Werner Niefer, Mercedes-Benz chief, mutters darkly about dumping and "strategic pricing" capers which lead to Toyota's selling its Lexus in the US for less than \$40,000 and for more than \$55,000 in Germany.

While social evolution and globalization of capital markets work at eroding these advantage,

Mercedes-Benz has set about improving its competitive condition through its own efforts.

The most obvious signs of emergent determination to cut the fat have appeared in the past few months in announcements of huge job cuts among all German motor manufacturers. The half-year mark in Mercedes' plan to slash its workforce by 20,000 will

be reached by the end of this year.

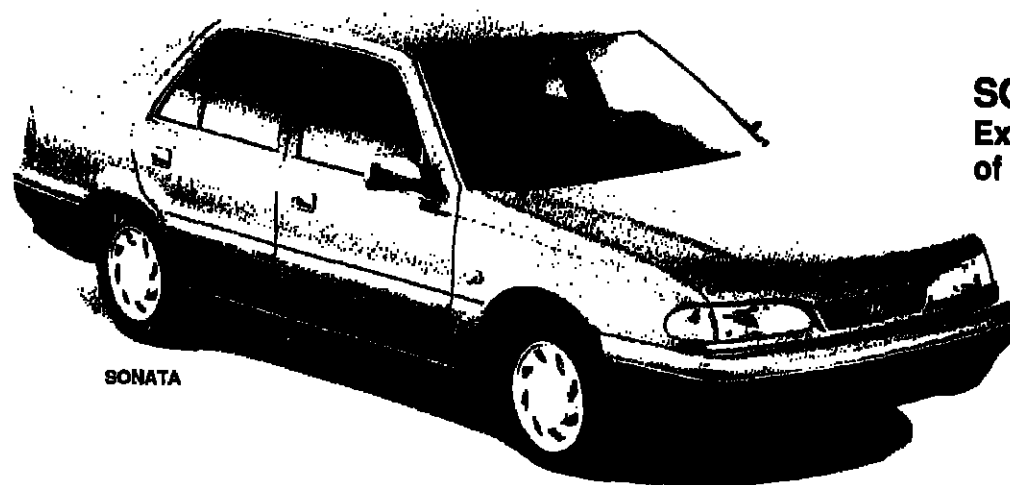
The aim is clear. As Mr Niefer and his colleagues have stated; additional wage costs, which exceed improvements in productivity will not be passed on to customers. They will be paid for indirectly by the German workforce, while forced redundancies are almost unknown in Germany,

job cuts will be achieved by replacement of people moving on, and "social measures" including early retirement and training for other jobs.

Meanwhile, Mercedes is adding capacity. Its new car plant at Rastatt, close to the border between Baden-Württemberg and Alsace

Continued on page 17

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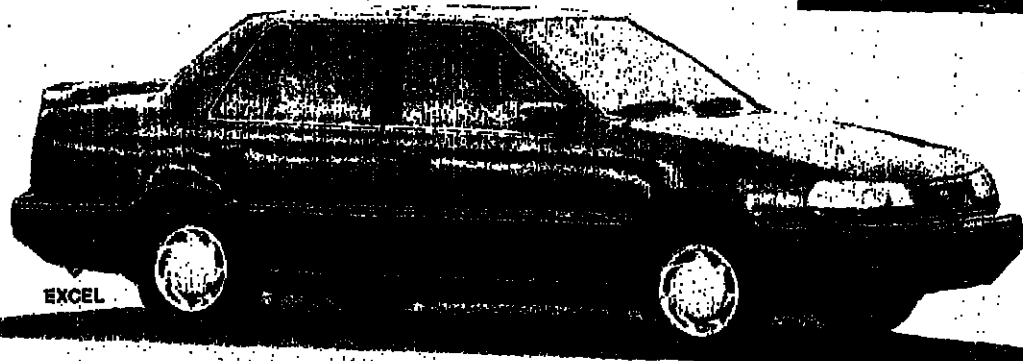
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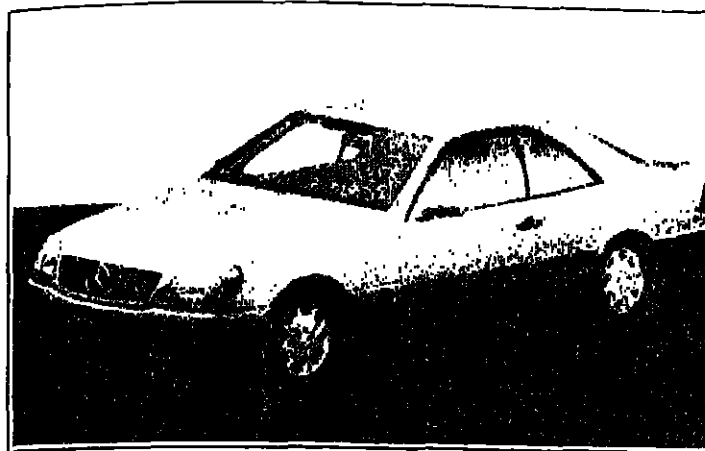
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Mercedes-Benz new 600SEC will be made in Rastatt

'Group working' German-style

Continued from page 16

will steadily increase output to 90,000 cars a year by 1996, raising group capacity from 580,000 today.

The works, only the company's third in the country, appears to be a demonstration of faith in the old "Made in Germany" principle.

It might also be considered a remarkable development in the light of constant claims from Mr Edzard Reuter, chairman of the Mercedes parent, Daimler-Benz, that domestic production costs are killing off Germany's attractions as a manufacturing base. But it is much more than a factory: it is a test bed for the company's future manufacturing strategy.

Especially in its early days, Rastatt will function as a proving site for new techniques in "lean production." Logistics and manpower management which will subsequently be introduced into the group's other established works at nearby Sindelfingen and Bremen in the north.

The lessons will also be passed back to component suppliers, which will in future work far more closely with the Mercedes research and development teams. One initial short-term aim is to reduce the number of parts which have to be handled and fitted at the works. Suppliers will be required to supply complete pre-assemblies built and tested precisely to Mercedes standards.

The clearest clues to what is afoot in Rastatt are provided by the absence of anything resembling a conventional production

line and the presence of teams of 10 to 15 workers clustered around custom-built cradles swinging body shells to and fro giving them easy access to bolt holes and fixing points.

This is "group working" German-style. Not, Mr Niefer stressed, copied from Japan or Scandinavia, but developed specially to suit domestic conditions.

Teams of eight to 10 are given responsibility for each stage of assembly. Members elect their own spokesperson, organize their own work as they choose, manage their own logistics, swap jobs when they like, mend their own tools and equipment, fix holiday rotas and resolve problems as they go along.

A quality card, marked with each worker's individual stamp and signed off with a group stamp, travels through all stages with the car. At the end of processing, the vehicle, will typically roll directly into a loading bay or storage park.

Each day only one or two will be given an overall quality check. Just as Rastatt has no conventional assembly line, it also has no bottleneck bay at the end of the line — typical of most German plants where cars are checked over and defects corrected.

Quality, Mr Niefer said, is built in. So, too, is economy. While 10 per cent of the 45,000 Sindelfingen workforce is occupied solely with quality control and end-of-line repairs, at Rastatt the line worker and quality controller are one and the same person. ■

Financial Times

New cars on the road



The Audi 100 (above) and the Audi 80 are available in seven versions.



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Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Parlement

L'info à la une

L'examen du projet de "loi sur la presse et les publications" figure en bonne place dans le planning des députés. Le Jourdain anticipe et vous donne les clés indispensables pour comprendre le futur bouleversement du paysage de la presse jordanienne

"CETTE NOUVELLE loi est un grand bond en avant par rapport à la précédente", confie Mahmoud El-Shérif, actuel ministre de l'Information et journaliste émérite (voir interview page de droite). Ce professionnel de la presse se prépare avant la révolution. De même que tous ses collègues, grands noms du journalisme jordanien ou illustres inconnus, qui attendent impatiemment l'adoption de la nouvelle "loi sur la presse et les publications".

Bon point pour la démocratie

Pour l'instant, la balle est dans le camp des députés. Le gouvernement a rendu sa copie en septembre 1991. Ces jours-ci, le Comité légal du conseil des députés travaille dans l'ombre et épluche ce projet de loi. Étape suivante: l'ensemble des élus du peuple discutera du sujet et de ses éventuels amendements. Si les engagements pris au début de la session extraordinaire sont respectés, la deuxième loi la plus importante pour le processus démocratique sera adoptée dans les semaines à venir.

Fidèle à la Constitution de 1952 et en accord avec les principes énoncés dans la Charte Nationale, le projet de "loi sur la presse et les publications" (élu 1991) réaffirme le droit à l'expression pour tous les Jordaniens. En toute liberté et par tous les moyens possibles; il n'est pas étonnant que la première préoccupation de cette loi se concentre sur l'expression des partis politiques. Sur le point d'être reconnus par une autre loi, ces derniers vont se voir également autorisés à s'exprimer par le canal de la presse. Véritable porte ouverte à l'essor de mouvements d'opposition et d'opinion. Ce sera sans nul doute un plus dans la vie politique jordanienne et un bon point pour la démocratie.

Toute personne, toute collectivité ou organisation désirant créer un journal devra présenter sa demande au ministère de l'Information. Une réponse sera communiquée dans un délai de trente jours. Un recours devant

la Haute Cour de Justice sera possible en cas de refus. Mais attention, certaines conditions exigées sont très strictes.

Le propriétaire de journal devra nécessairement être citoyen jordanien résidant en Jordanie et jouir de tous ses droits civils. Il devra être journaliste ou représenter une société de presse, un parti politique ou une agence de presse. Dans tous les cas, le projet de loi interdit toute ingérence étrangère. Une agence de presse non-jordanienne peut posséder une publication à l'intérieur du royaume. Mais le rédacteur en chef, responsable selon la loi de ce qui est diffusé par son journal, doit être un journaliste jordanien.

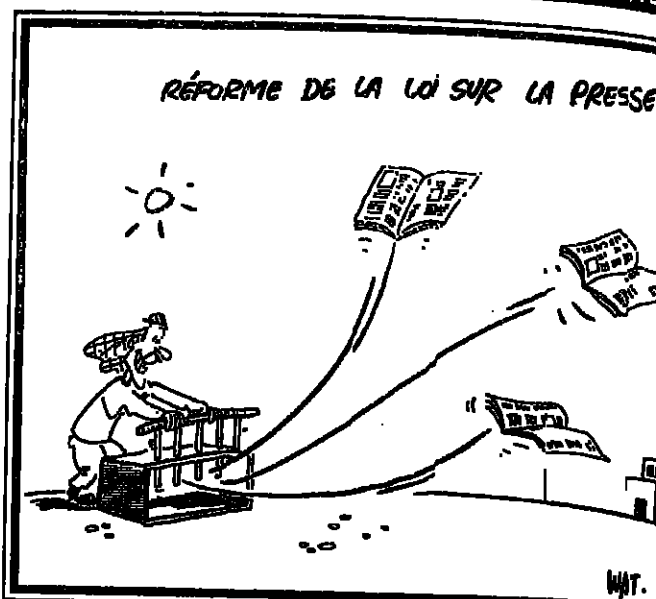
Aucune directive, aucun lien de travail (sauf pour les correspondants des médias étrangers), et surtout aucun financement ne devront échapper des sources extérieures. Le propriétaire d'une publication doit obligatoirement fournir au ministère de l'Information une copie de son budget annuel avec tous les justificatifs et un bilan de la situation financière. Pour garantir l'indépendance du paysage de la presse jordanienne, la loi se doit de fixer quelques limites. Limites qui concernent également les pouvoirs publics. Ceux-ci n'ont pas le droit de posséder plus de 30% du capital d'une publication.

La nouvelle "loi sur la presse et les publications" va définir

une certaine éthique à laquelle tout journaliste digne de ce nom doit se conformer. Elle va exiger le respect des droits et des libertés constitutionnels de l'individu et l'interdiction de toucher à sa vie privée. Le journaliste devra être objectif et honnête dans ses commentaires et refuser de publier tout ce qui peut encourager la violence, au racisme ou à la confessionnalisme. Comme il devra s'engager à faire de l'information et non pas de la publicité.

Le journaliste, ou tout citoyen désirent énoncer un avis, est libre de s'exprimer. Mais il doit respecter certaines limites imposées par la loi. Le roi, la famille royale, les forces armées et les services de sécurité sont des sujets délicats et plus ou moins prohibés. Les écrits sur les religions, les valeurs morales, les chefs d'Etat arabes, musulmans ou amis de la Jordanie demandent quelques précautions. Malgré ces limites, les temps vont changer en Jordanie dans le domaine de la presse. La nouvelle loi, qui va bientôt être discutée par les députés, annonce un retrait progressif des pouvoirs publics. Un seul mot d'ordre: les journalistes devront devenir autonomes afin de produire eux-mêmes leurs règles et garder

Michèle Rieux.



L'EDITO

Le retour du "machin"

LE COUP de gueule de l'Africain, dirigeant du "machin", a rappelé à l'ordre les confortables localités du "First Avenue" de Manhattan. L'Organisation universelle doit instaurer la paix chez les réfugiés serbiens aussi bien que chez les réfugiés yougoslaves. Boutros Ghali a-t-il besoin d'un pareil coup de semonce pour réaffirmer le rôle que la fin de la guerre froide a accordé à l'ONU? Pas de doute, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU a barré la route à une manipulation pure et simple d'un système censé jouer un rôle d'avant-garde dans le rétablissement et le maintien de la paix.

Coincidence heureuse ou enchaînement logique? Peu importe. Boutros Ghali remporte une nouvelle victoire. Yitzhak Rabin ne vient-il pas d'admettre que les Nations Unies devaient participer au processus de paix au Moyen-Orient.

Le nouveau dirigeant du "machin" peut se targuer d'avoir refusé une dernière participation à Madrid, Washington et Moscou. Sa revendication de voir les N.U. entrer de plain-pied dans le règlement du conflit a fini par faire fléchir les plus intransigeants des négociateurs.

Ce fin juriste international devrait monnayer cet acquis en dotant son Organisation d'outils efficaces, en lui offrant les moyens de concrétiser sa bonne parole. Inutile de prêter l'oreille aux mauvaises langues: Le "machin" devrait poursuivre son mouvement non-aligné au service de tous sans exception. N'est-il pas trop tôt pour juger un Secrétaire général du plus grand système mondial?

Quelques mois seulement après sa prise de fonction. Une chose est sûre: l'Organisation a besoin d'un homme sérieux et efficace pour mener à bien sa mission. Elle a aussi besoin de respect de l'universalité de son mandat.

L.J: Quels sont les droits du journaliste en Jordanie?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Un journaliste bénéficie de la liberté totale de collecter et de diffuser l'information, d'exprimer ses opinions. Les sources d'informations doivent être ouvertes à l'exception des secrets de défense. La liberté du journaliste est protégée par la loi, par la constitution. Mais il y a certaines restrictions. Le journaliste ne doit pas utiliser cette liberté pour blasphémer, pour attaquer les religions, pour attaquer le système de gouvernement en l'occurrence la monarchie. Il n'est pas autorisé ni à s'en prendre à la personne du roi ni à la famille royale, ni à diffuser des secrets officiels. S'il faut se les procurer, il n'est pas autorisé à les publier sans demander la permission aux forces armées. Le journaliste n'a pas le droit d'attaquer les religions reconnues dans le pays. Ce sont les choses majeures qu'il doit éviter d'écrire. S'il viole cette règle, il est susceptible d'être poursuivi en justice.

L.J: Ça fait beaucoup d'interdits.

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Seulement ceux que je vous ai donnés. Pour tous les autres sujets, le journaliste est libre de ses gestes. Il peut critiquer le gouvernement, ses ministres. Le Parlement n'a aucune protection contre les attaques de la presse. Personne n'est au-dessus de la liberté de la presse à l'exception du roi et de la famille royale. Des secrets militaires du pays et de la cohésion sociale. Nous ne pensons pas que quelqu'un doit être libre d'écrire un article sur les chrétiens qui provoquent un bain de sang entre chrétiens et musulmans... C'est une loi sur la presse existante, progressive dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Ce n'est ni le Subde ni les Etats-Unis. Cette nouvelle loi est un grand bond en avant par rapport à la précédente.

L.J: Que veut dire liberté d'expression en Jordanie?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: La liberté d'expression est définie dans la constitution (Article 15) qui dit que les Jordaniens sont libres d'exprimer leurs opinions. La loi n'est pas censurée sur les journaux qui viennent de l'étranger. C'est une nécessité à cause du climat social. Si vous leviez la censure,

les droits des autres, qu'ils ne portent pas atteinte à la dignité de l'homme, qu'ils ne portent pas atteinte aux religions. Ce sont les seules restrictions à la liberté d'expression. Mais en Jordanie, vous n'êtes pas autorisés à publier les "Versets sataniques", à écrire un livre disant que le Coran n'est pas inspiré par Dieu... Vous ne pouvez pas parler contre la Vierge Marie... Nous sommes un pays qui respecte toutes les religions...

L.J: La Jordanie prévoit-elle, comme on le dit, de créer un Haut comité pour la liberté d'expression?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: C'était mon idée de créer un tel conseil. Dans le passé, c'était le gouvernement qui supervisait la presse. Dorénavant, la presse va superviser la presse. Le gouvernement n'a rien à voir avec elle. Par ailleurs, nous devons mettre en balance liberté et responsabilité. J'ai exhorté les professionnels de la presse à s'organiser et à créer ce qui est appelé dans d'autres pays, "Le conseil de la presse". Il y en a 52 dans le monde, ils comprennent des journalistes vétérans, des juristes, des membres du Parlement... Ce corps régle. Il est créé par la presse. Il définit la mission de la presse. Il vérifie si elle ne viole pas la loi, si elle ne va pas à l'encontre de l'intérêt public. Mais l'idée que j'ai proposée n'a pas été acceptée par beaucoup de mes collègues. Je pense qu'un jour ils diront, nous aurions dû (rire...) écouter ce que Mahmoud El-Shérif disait en 1992... C'est comme un feu rouge. Cela ne dit pas aux conducteurs où ils doivent aller. Mais vous prévenez les accidents. Je pense qu'un "Conseil de la presse" est nécessaire. Les gens de presse ne sont pas des anges. Ce sont des êtres humains comme vous et moi. Ils doivent créer eux-mêmes la garde fou. C'est ça l'idée du "Conseil de la presse".

L.J: Quels sont les droits des caricaturistes?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Nous devons plutôt parler des droits à l'expression. Par exemple, vous ne pouvez pas autoriser une caricature de Mahmoud El-Shérif en tant que singe... Vous pouvez me critiquer, mais vous ne pouvez pas m'appeler "chien" ou "singe".

L.J: Les publications étrangères, vont-elles continuer à être contrôlées avant publication?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Nous avons dans ce pays une certaine dose de censure sur les journaux qui viennent de l'étranger. C'est une nécessité à cause du climat social. Si vous leviez la censure,

les droits des autres, qu'ils ne portent pas atteinte à la dignité de l'homme, qu'ils ne portent pas atteinte aux religions. Ce sont les seules restrictions à la liberté d'expression. Mais en Jordanie, vous n'êtes pas autorisés à publier les "Versets sataniques", à écrire un livre disant que le Coran n'est pas inspiré par Dieu... Vous ne pouvez pas parler contre la Vierge Marie... Nous sommes un pays qui respecte toutes les religions...

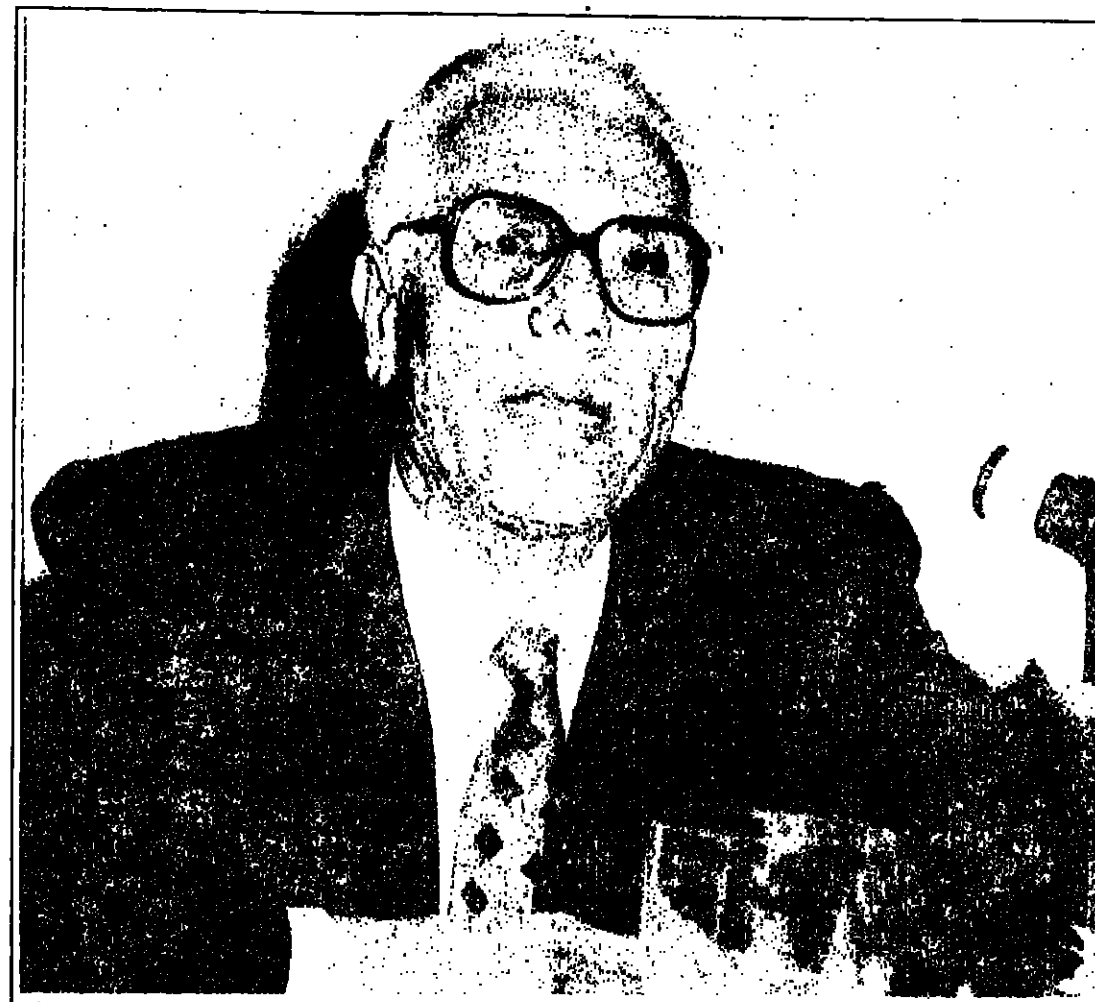
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Interview de Mahmoud El-Shérif

La presse va-t-elle faire sa loi?

Les députés devront bientôt voter en faveur de "l'explosion" des publications en Jordanie. Mais la nouvelle loi comportera encore bon nombre d'interdits. Entre les lignes avec le ministre de l'Information



Playboy serait vendu dans les rues. Et vous auriez une explosion, les gens brûleraient les librairies. C'est avant tout un pays islamique, et nous devons faire attention aux publications qui viennent de l'étranger.

L.J: La plupart des journalistes, surtout les plus âgés, sont des apôtres de l'autocensure. Cette pratique est-elle trop répandue?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Même dans votre pays, chaque journaliste s'impose une certaine dose d'autocensure. Nous ne vivons pas dans un monde complètement libre, vous devez tenir compte de votre communauté, de vos voisins... C'est un phénomène qui a existé par le passé, et je pense qu'il va continuer. Qu'est-ce que l'autocensure? C'est un sentiment de responsabilité.

L.J: Pendant la guerre du Golfe, la Jordanie a reçu un grand nombre de journalistes. Quelles leçons tirez-vous de ce contact?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Nous étions la seule fenêtre vers le monde pour les journalistes qui venaient de Bagdad ou de beaucoup d'autres endroits. Ils pouvaient envoyer leurs photos ou leurs articles sans qu'aucune forme de censure ne leur soit imposée. Bien sûr nous n'avons pas beaucoup aimé certains écrits. Mais qu'est-ce que la démocratie? C'est

lire quelque chose que vous n'aimez pas. Le contact a été très éducatif pour nos journalistes locaux. Quand ils ont vu ces journalistes étrangers, je pense que cela a créé une jalousie. Cela a ouvert nos esprits aux nouvelles techniques. Nous nous sommes rendus compte à quel point ces gens étaient dévoués à leur travail... C'était une très bonne expérience que nous aimerions voir se répéter, mais pas dans les conditions d'une guerre du Golfe.

L.J: A l'heure de la Conférence de paix, peut-on s'attendre à voir un jour un chanteur israélien à la TV jordanienne?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Quand il y aura la paix, oui... Vous ne verrez pas seulement des chanteurs israéliens sur la TV jordanienne, mais aussi beaucoup de changements en termes de commerce et de relations diplomatiques. Mais seulement après la finalisation de la paix. Pas avant...

L.J: Contrôlez-vous les finances des journaux?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Nous n'avons aucun contrôle financier sur les publications. Ce sont toutes des entreprises libres. Elles doivent nous envoyer leurs budgets à la fin de l'année. Nous devons vérifier que ces publications ne sont pas financées par des puissances étrangères. Qu'elles ne gagnent pas d'argent de manière illégale...

L.J: Combien de publications attendez-vous en Jordanie dans les années qui viennent?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: Nous avons des licences pour 150 publications. Dès que la nouvelle loi sera passée, il y aura une explosion de journaux... Mais je pense que cela ne va durer que six ou sept mois. Alors, beaucoup vont s'évanouir dans la nature. Peut-être allons nous nous retrouver avec deux autres grands quotidiens, deux grands hebdomadaires de plus. Et c'est tout...

L.J: Une loi est-elle suffisante pour faire changer les mentalités?

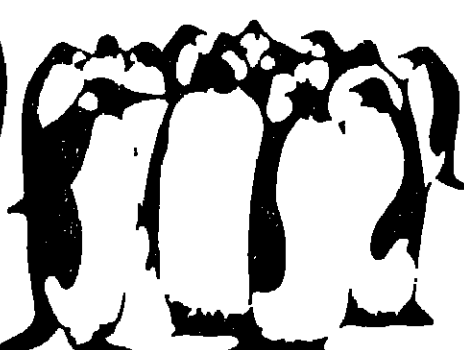
Mahmoud El-Shérif: Les mentalités ne changent pas avec une loi. C'est une pratique. Nous sommes maintenant dans une démocratie. Nous sommes déterminés à la réussir. Nous nous efforçons d'éduquer les gens. Un des instruments pour y parvenir est la loi sur la presse. Mais par elle-même, elle ne va pas changer la communauté. C'est seulement un changement immédiat...

L.J: La Jordanie aura-t-elle toujours besoin d'un ministre de l'Information?

Mahmoud El-Shérif: J'espère qu'un jour nous n'en aurons plus besoin. Mais pour le moment, oui... Cette question est liée à celle de notre progression sur la voie de la démocratie.

Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer.

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

ON WEDNESDAY 5 August the first stock market for flowers was opened at the Munir Shukhtan Stockmarket for flowers in the Medco building.

The opening was under the patronage of the Mayor of Amman, Mohammed Bashir. Nidal Shukhtan, owner of the stock market began by welcoming everyone and introduced the guest speakers.

First to speak was Mazen Ghalyini, head of the stock market, who welcomed the Mayor saying that his presence encourages suppliers and buyers alike to make the stock market successful and to branch out into other countries.

Mr Bashir gave a few words of encouragement for such a venture and felt that this would benefit the producers, dealers and customers of flower trade as a whole. Those who attended the opening were flower suppliers and shop owners who later began an auction for the flowers supplied.

Later when interviewed, Mr Bashir also informed The Star that there are 40 suppliers in Jordan who will benefit from this venture and that this is the first stock market for flowers in the Middle East.

Kodak has been part of the Olympic movement since the beginning of the modern games.

Kodak products were advertised in the official book of results in the first Olympiad in the modern era — Athens 1896.

New products and promotions have often been introduced during the games with Kodak marketers and technicians playing an instrumental role whether recording events or spreading the word to the world.

Automatic timing and the photo-finish camera were both introduced at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The record number of participants to date was in Seoul, Korea in 1988 with 160 national committees represented, although 1992 looks set to host 165.

When local bread delivery boy, Theodor, won the marathon in the 2nd Olympiad in Paris at the turn of the century, by a five-minute margin, some losers spread rumors that he knew the course so well that he took a few short cuts through the back alleys of the French capital.

In the 1968 Games in Mexico City, Enriqueta Basil had become the first woman to light the Olympic Flame.

The Olympiad movement was founded as an attempt to promote peace and build bridges towards worldwide understanding through international athletic competition.

The (Kodak) program is designed to enhance national ties with the governments and peoples of participating countries while attempting to overcome geographical, cultural and economic barriers.

Kodak, established as an inter-

national company, continues to be truly global in image and style; a firm belief in competition, quality and excellence.

THE ROYAL Automobile Club has organized a race from Amman to Tel al Ruman on Friday 21 August at 10:00. Enrolments have started and will end 15 August. Committee members: Derek Ledger (race manager), Bashar Asfour (deputy race manager and senior observer), Talal Malhas and Yakoub Tablou will be conducting the car presentation examinations on 18 August between 3:00 and 4:00. Times to beat from recent races are two hours, two minutes and 42 seconds set by HM King Hussein, 2 hours, two minutes and 58 seconds set by Michel Salah and 2 hours four minutes and 44 seconds set by Mohammed Salah.

Agenda

Bazaar:

In cooperation with the Crown Prince Award office, Al Sabeia, will be holding a bazaar in the Ibrahimia School, 5th circle, in front of the Gondala Motel on Friday the 7 August at 10:00 am. Included in the activities are: treasure hunt, games, a fortune teller, oriental bazaar, sketching, book shops and most important, food and burgers.

Festival:

Hotel InterContinental Jordan is holding a special "Ten Nights in Bangkok" food festival. A team of cooks, musicians and artists were flown in from Siam Hotel InterContinental. The festival will run from 5 - 11 August at 8:00 pm daily. For more information call 641 361.

Field Trip:

The Friends of Archeology have organized a field trip to Dohaleh, 25 kms south east of Irbid on Friday 7 August. The program will include visiting late Roman early Byzantine, Umayyad and Ayyubid-Mamluke sites. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel at 9:00 am where there will be a rented bus and will be on a first come first served basis costing JD4, otherwise come in private car. Bring lunch and plenty of drinking water.

Exhibitions:

The British Council is presenting the Exploring Science Exhibition. This is a completely new type of exhibition that invites visitors to get their hands on the exhibits, thereby learning about science through exploration. The exhibition will be open to the public until 19 August from 10 am to 8 pm.

UsAir first to offer seatback phone/computer system

ARLINGTON, VA. — USAir has become the first airline in the skies with "FlightLink" — a sophisticated new communications system featuring a telephone and interactive computer video screen in individual seats.

The system is being installed aboard the 10 Boeing 757s that are joining the USAir fleet this year.

"We're proud and delighted to offer passengers the opportunity to evaluate this exciting new technology," said USAir Executive Vice President of Customer Services John R. Long.

With FlightLink, a development of In-Flight Phone Corp. of Oakbrook Terrace, IL, passengers initially will be able to place telephone calls on static-free digital connections; send fax messages; access stock quotes; and play a variety of electronic games.

According to Rene Phillips, manager of aircraft interior planning and design, even more exciting additions are planned for the months ahead. They include:

- Displays of connecting gate information and visual maps of various airports;
- A means for passengers to connect their own laptop computers via modem to ground-based systems;
- Weather reports, major news events and city guides;
- Live sports and entertainment broadcasts;

A paging service that will allow anyone on the ground to send a message to a passenger's seat via an 800 number;

An innovative service called Key Express with which passengers will be able to bypass lines at hotel and car rental check-in centers.

To use the new service, a passenger removes the handset from the underside of the armrest a menu on the video screen lists the services, simple to use instructions and graphics.

Flight attendants will not be involved in cash transactions since all charges will be paid for by credit card. The customer simply slides the card through an automatic reader in the hardest to use the system.

Telephone calls will cost \$2 per minute with no set-up fee. Data services, such as the stock quotes and games, will be free during the trial period. In-Flight phone will establish prices for the data services following the evaluation period.

The new technology also offers potential operational benefits to the airline. These include an alternative to existing air-to-ground communications and dispatching functions.

FlightLink system is owned by In-Flight Phone Corp., which provides for the installation of the equipment. USAir receives a commission on revenues generated by the system.

Congratulations!

A big congratulation to Maher Abu Eid from Zarka on passing his final Tawjilhi exams.

All the way down to Aquaba mubarak to Mohamed Nabulsi on passing his final Tawjilhi exams.

To Suhad Rakiz Al Qurashi from Zarka congratulations on passing her final Tawjilhi exams and scoring 97.3%. Zakia had the 3rd highest score in Jordan and the 2nd highest score from the girls.

Mubarak to Rubhi Mashaleh and Rana Abu Eid who were engaged on 31 July. Their engagement party included all loved friends and relatives.



The Crown Hotel famous for its only water slide (8m high and 50m long) and for its largest swimming pool in Jordan have added to its list of rarities by running a boat race every week. The races are held every Friday and Sunday afternoon; the race categories are men's and ladies' singles and doubles and family were the whole family race in one boat.

The races have been a huge success at the swimming pool as it is a new kind of competition to be held in Amman and never tried before. The number of participants increase every week. Training for the races is held every day in the afternoon, and all are welcome to come and watch and even participate provided they adhere to the strict rules of entrance to the swimming pool which only allows families and couples. All activities held at the hotel are to enhance domestic tourism and encourage the family to participate.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
8 August -
14 August

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Super Bloopers.
12:00 — Encounter.
13:00 — Variety.
14:00 — News in English.
15:00 — Film: Gabriel's Fire.
16:00 — Gotta Fly. Josephine asks Gabriel to convince her son to join the army, while he asks her to convince his daughter to join him in town.

SUNDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Olympics.
12:00 — News in English.
13:00 — Midnight Caller.
14:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

MONDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Close to Home.
12:00 — A Perfect Hero.
13:00 — News in English.
14:00 — Strauss family.
15:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

TUESDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Acropolis Now.
12:00 — Mr. Bean.
13:00 — Tex.
14:00 — News in English.
15:00 — Oscar Feature Film: "The Pimpirel." Starring Julie Howard. An English nobleman's role during and after the French Revolution.
16:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

WEDNESDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Saved by the Bell.
12:00 — Man of the people.
13:00 — News in English.
14:00 — Movie: In a Child's name. A custody battle ensues when Ken's parents defy a court order and secretly flee with the baby to another state.
15:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

THURSDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — The Simpsons.
12:00 — NBA Basketball.
13:00 — News in English.

FRIDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Golden Girls.
12:00 — Root into Europe.
13:00 — News in English.
14:00 — Inspector Morse.
15:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

SATURDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Super Bloopers.
12:00 — Encounter.
13:00 — Variety.
14:00 — News in English.
15:00 — Film: Gabriel's Fire.
16:00 — Gotta Fly. Josephine asks Gabriel to convince her son to join the army, while he asks her to convince his daughter to join him in town.

SUNDAY

10:00 — Olympics until 6:30.
11:00 — Olympics.
12:00 — News in English.
13:00 — Midnight Caller.
14:00 — Olympics until 1:30.



Brittany Fiona Jane McIntosh (right) bows to the cut and thrust in the individual Judo, losing the quarter-final to China's Wang Huijeng. Just one of the many events on JTV's special Olympic telecast.

10:20 — Movie of the Week: Keeping Secrets. Susanne Somers. James Soturus. The story of a whole family who manages to rid of their addiction to alcohol.
12:00 — Olympics until 1:30.

de Jacques-Yves Cousteau.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The weekly sports magazine.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Petites Histoires Presques Vraies.
6:10 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — La Gymnastique.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fenetre Sur. A local program.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.
5:50 — Des Chiffres et des Lettres.
6:10 — La Chance aux Chances.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine. E-M6. A scientific magazine.

LUNDI

6:00 — Au Claire de Lune.
6:10 — Le monde sous Marin.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Put names and dates in writing. Messages could be scrambled.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Follow through with a plan, changing your mind is costly.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): Who is undermining your efforts? Avoiding problems could undermine your health.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): You are such a people-pleaser this week that your own interests may fall by the wayside.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): If you are realistic a dream can come partially true. Your instincts about trouble are correct.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Others are so temperamental that your calm exterior puts you in line for promotions.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): A financial deal is close. Keep the faith — you'll be vindicated.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Others accept an excuse if you use humor. Be prepared to make a presentation.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): You words are golden. All communications improve. Apologies are accepted.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): A school pal reappears in your life. Older relatives try to make you feel guilty; be firm.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Someone is deliberately keeping news from you. Find secondary sources for income.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Improve education or work skills and a bonus is near. Experts may provoke you.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: Virgos survive a minor loss and have great triumphs in October. Major career, love and personal achievements are likely. Leave your normal reserved nature at home in November-December and accolades and new positions are yours. Public service, inventions and health issues all bring glory.

TOP HITS

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprise
2. Under the Bridge, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros.
3. I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia
4. Damn I Wish I Was Your Lover, Sophie B. Hawkins, Columbia
5. If You Asked Me To, Celine Dion, EPIC
6. Tennessee, Arrested Development, Chrysalis
7. Wishin' on a Star, The Cover Girls, Epic
8. Jump, Kriss Kross, Columbia
9. My Lovin', En Vogue, ATCO
10. Just Another Day, Jon Secada, SBK

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Cape Fear, Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
2. JFK, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-1991)
3. Kuffs, Christian Slater, MCA/Universal Home Video (PG-1991)
4. The Addams Family, Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Paramount Home Video (PG-1991)
5. Father of the Bride, Steve Martin, Touchstone Home Video, (PG-1991)
6. Grand Canyon, Kevin Kline, Danny Glover, Fox Video (R-1991)
7. My Girl, Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky, Columbia TriStar Home Video (PG-1991)
8. Frankie and Johnny, Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
9. The Butcher's Wife, Demi Moore, Jeff Daniels, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
10. For the Boys, Bette Midler, James Caan, Fox Video (R-1991)



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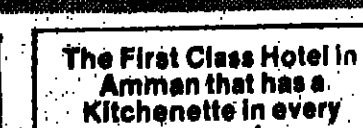
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THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON

Marbella 52	
Majorca 71	
Sri Lanka	94
Colombo 1	
Sudan	249
Khartoum 11	
Sweden	46
Stockholm 8	
Syria	963
Damascus 11	
Taiwan	886
Taipei 2	
Thailand	66
Bangkok 2	
Tunisia	216
Tunis 1	
Turkey	90
Ankara 4	
Istanbul 1	
UAE	971
Abu Dhabi 2	
Ajman 6	
Al Ain 3	
Dubai 4	
Fujairah 76	
Ghayathi 52	
Ras Al Khaimah 77	
Sharjah 6	
Umm Al Quwain 6	
UK	44
London (inner 71/outer 81)	
Uruguay	398
Montevideo 2	
USA	1
New York 212/718	
Washington 202	
USSR	7
Moscow 095	
Venezuela	58
Caracas 2	
Yugoslavia	28